



SKM to hold daily marches to Parliament during winter session
page 10



NSA Ajit Doval meets counterparts from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
page 11



Domestic air passenger traffic grew by 24-25% in October, says ICRA
page 14



England meets New Zealand in T20 World Cup semifinal today
page 15

IN BRIEF



J&K hospitals get faulty ventilators

SRINAGAR
J&K's Health and Medical Education Department found itself in the dock after details obtained under the RTI Act suggested that at least 165 "faulty" ventilators were supplied to the Union Territory's hospitals last year with PM CARES fund.
NEWS PAGE 12

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OPPORTUNITIES PAGE 5

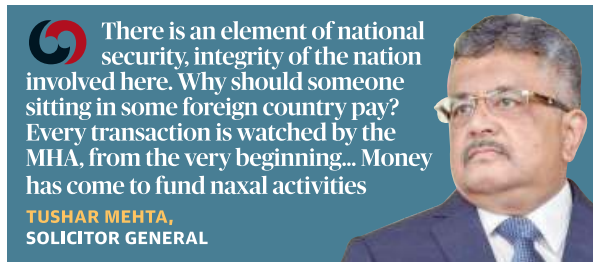
Why is MHA tasked to monitor foreign funds for NGOs, asks SC

It is to safeguard national security, says govt. as pleas challenge changes to FCRA

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the government why the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been tasked to keep an eye on the inflow and subsequent outflow of foreign funds to NGOs under the foreign contributions regulations law.

"Why has the whole operation been brought under the Ministry of Home Affairs and not under the finance department?," Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, heading a three-judge Bench, asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

The question was posed



There is an element of national security, integrity of the nation involved here. Why should someone sitting in some foreign country pay? Every transaction is watched by the MHA, from the very beginning... Money has come to fund naxal activities

TUSHAR MEHTA, SOLICITOR GENERAL

during the hearing of petitions challenging the amendments to the Foreign Contributions Regulations law in 2020. The petitions argued that the amendments severely restricted the use of foreign funds by NGOs for their activities and transfer

to other philanthropic organisations within the country.

IB inputs

Mr. Mehta said Intelligence Bureau (IB) inputs have shown that foreign funds entering India were used to

fund activities that destabilise national peace and security.

The inputs even indicated that the money was used to train naxals.

"There is an element of national security, integrity of the nation involved here. Why should someone sitting in some foreign country pay... Every transaction is watched by the Ministry of Home Affairs, from the very beginning... Money has come to fund naxal activities," Mr. Mehta responded to the court's query.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Congress, BJP trade charges after new report on Rafale

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress traded charges on Tuesday, a day after fresh revelations by French investigative portal Mediapart indicated that kickbacks of at least ₹7.5 million were paid in the Rafale deal between 2007 and 2012.

The BJP said the Indian

National Congress should be renamed "I Need Commission" and alleged that the failed negotiations for the aircraft, when the Congress was in power, was because of the latter's dissatisfaction with the "cut".

The Congress, on the other hand, accused the Narendra Modi government of a "cover up" in the scam and shying away from registering

an FIR even 36 months after evidence emerged on middleman Sushen Gupta's role in the deal.

At a press conference, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said the government is busy "burying the black melting pot of corruption, kickbacks and collusion".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

'Monitoring Chinese assets in Indian Ocean'

DINAKAR PERI
DONA PAULA

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh said the Navy was monitoring the Chinese naval and maritime assets deployed in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) for any activities "inimical to our interests".

In an exclusive interview to *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC), Admiral

Singh said the logistics deals and foundational agreements signed by India have helped the Navy achieve 'Reach and Sustainance'.

The third edition of GMC 2021, being hosted by the Indian Navy, has the participation of Navy Chiefs and heads of maritime forces from 12 Indian Ocean nations.

FULL INTERVIEW PAGE 11

Angry over losing job, driver kills DU teacher's wife

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The wife of a Delhi University assistant professor was allegedly killed by a former employee who wanted to take revenge on her for losing his job, the police said on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said the accused has been identified as Rakesh, 31, a resident of Sant Nagar, who worked as a taxi driver. The victim, 32-year-old Pinki, was found dead in a flat on the fourth floor of a building in Sant Nagar.

The police said that a constable posted at the Buarri police station saw Rakesh "roaming around nervously" around 7 p.m. on Monday. On being questioned, he allegedly told the constable that he had killed his sister-in-law. A police team reached the flat and found Pinki's body lying on the bed. A murder case was registered.

During interrogation, Rakesh told the police that he knew the professor, Virender Kumar, for the past three years and considered him his elder brother. Prof. Kumar had given Rakesh a car to drive as a taxi and also offered his family a room to stay on the top floor of the building.

Prof. Kumar got married to Pinki in February this year. She started having fights with Rakesh and his wife due to which they had to move out of the building. Rakesh also lost his job, the police said. Rakesh blamed Pinki for his condition. On Monday, he went to the professor's residence in a drunken state and strangled his wife. He then electrocuted Pinki to ensure that she was dead, Rakesh allegedly told the police.

Pinki's family had submitted a police complaint regarding a threat to her life in August this year.

Punjab Advocate General removed as Channi bows to Sidhu's demand

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Bowing to pressure from State Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu, the Punjab Government led by Charanjit Singh Channi on Tuesday removed A.P.S. Deol as Advocate General. The move was a

key precondition of Mr. Sidhu for resuming his duties as the Punjab Congress Committee chief, even as he withdrew his resignation last week.

In an attempt to present a united face amid the ongoing crises in the party, Mr. Channi and Mr. Sidhu addressed a

joint press conference in the State capital and announced that the resignation of Mr. Deol has been accepted among other Cabinet decisions.

"The Advocate General had resigned a few days ago. The Cabinet has accepted his (AG) resignation. We will send

the resignation to the Governor and tomorrow we will appoint a new AG," said Mr. Channi, after presiding over the Cabinet meeting.

"As far as the appointment of new DGP is concerned, we have already forwarded the names to the Centre," the

Chief Minister said.

Mr. Sidhu, who had on September 28 quit from his post without assigning any reasons, had strong reservations over the appointments of Director General of Police Iqbal Preet Singh Sahota and Advocate General A.P.S. Deol.

The decision of removing the Advocate General is being seen as an attempt to placate Mr. Sidhu, who has been at attacking his own Government on public platforms.

Recently, Mr. Sidhu and Mr. Deol had exchanged sharp words. Mr. Deol had ac-

cused Mr. Sidhu of spreading misinformation for selfish political gain ahead of the Assembly election in Punjab. Mr. Sidhu had hit back at Mr. Deol, alleging that "earnest inaction" in the cases related to sacrilege and drugs was "subverting justice".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

550 teams to control open burning: Rai

Govt. to increase tankers to 400 for sprinkling drive; IIT Bombay team studying impact of smog tower

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

As the city's air continued to be toxic, a team from IIT Bombay is studying the impact of the smog tower fitted with 5,000 filters.

There is more than 80% reduction in the particulate matter, a chief pollutant, that enters and leaves the tower. But this is just the efficiency of the filters; it will take time to know the actual impact of the tower at a distance away, a Delhi Government official said.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Tuesday that the Delhi Government will execute a five-point plan, including a campaign against open burning from Thursday, to reduce air pollution.



The smog tower at Baba Kharak Singh Marg in Delhi. ■ FILE PHOTO

"This anti-open burning campaign will be run for a month. This is a joint drive involving the Delhi Pollution Control Committee; North,

East, South Delhi Municipal Corporations; Revenue, Development, Irrigation and Flood Control Departments; Delhi Development Authori-

ties; Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC); and Cantonment Board. They will crack down on incidents of open burning of waste," Mr. Rai said.

The Minister said these Government bodies have a total of 550 teams, of which 304 teams will work during the day and the remaining 246 will patrol at night.

He also said that directions have been issued to the departments to implement the phase two of the anti-dust campaign, which will begin on November 12 and end on December 12.

About the water sprinkling drive, Mr. Rai said at present, the exercise is being carried by the Public

Works Department. "The fight will be intensified with the three corporations, Cantonment Board and DSIIDC pitching in to take the number of tankers deployed to over 400. This will provide immediate relief from the pollution to an extent," he said.

The Minister also said that spraying of bio-decomposer in the entire area of 4,000 acres will be completed by November 20.

The smog tower, a pilot project, was inaugurated by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on August 23. The 24-metre-high structure has 40 big fans and 5,000 filters. The fans suck in air which will be cleaned as it passes through the filters.

HC seeks Govt's response to plea on controlling dengue

Authorities get a week's time to submit status reports

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the Delhi Government and the North Delhi Municipal Corporation to respond to a plea seeking steps to control the rising dengue cases through regular fogging, forming inspection teams to check growth of mosquito larvae, and imposing penalties for violations.

Justice Rekha Palli granted a week's time to the authorities to submit their status reports in the case while posting it for further hearing on November 18.

The petitioner, Ananya Kumar, a resident of Model Town in north Delhi, who



A municipal worker fumigating an area in Delhi. ■ FILE PHOTO

suffered from dengue, said the area is facing an onslaught of the disease.

The plea said that due to the inaction of the authori-

ties in controlling the vector-borne disease, many cases are reported every day and hospital beds are being occupied fast.

The Delhi Government's counsel said the authorities are taking necessary steps to check dengue cases in the city.

The petition sought a direction to the authorities to control the disease in the surrounding area of her residence and to conduct "regular fogging in the area, door-to-door awareness campaign, form teams to inspect dengue larvae on the premises/area and to impose penalty for violation and issue dengue helpline numbers".

City's air quality dips to 'severe' level again

Stubble burning, slow local winds major reasons

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The air quality in the Capital deteriorated to the 'severe' category again on Tuesday from the 'very poor' level, a day earlier.

The AQI (air quality index) has been 'severe' for four out of five days after Deepavali.

Delhi's air quality entered the 'severe' level for the first time this winter on Friday with an AQI of 462. The AQI was 437 on Saturday, 428 on Sunday, 390 on Monday, and 404 on Tuesday, as per the Central Pollution Control Board's 4 p.m. bulletin, which is an average of the past 24 hours and considered the day's AQI.

Several other NCR cities, including Faridabad, Noida and Ghaziabad, and towns in north India such as Meerut, Baghpat, Hapur, and

Ballabgarh too witnessed 'severe' level of air pollution on Tuesday.

Stubble burning and slowing down of local winds were the major reasons for Tuesday's toxic air quality.

The contribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to PM2.5 in Delhi was 27% on Tuesday and the number of active fires in the region was 3,476, according to the Centre-run monitoring agency SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research).

Gufan Beig, founder project director, SAFAR, said, "From today afternoon, the local wind speed has declined, so dispersion of pollutants also slowed down. However, the impact of stubble burning continued to remain the same due to high-effective fire counts. AQI is likely to fluctuate between the higher end of the 'very poor' and 'severe' category in the next two days if the fire counts continue to remain high."

EDMC bans firewood, coal at eateries to curb air pollution

Will increase costs, complain owners of restaurants

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) on Tuesday announced a ban on the use of coal and firewood in clay ovens (*tandoors*) and grills at restaurants under its jurisdiction.

The civic body in an order said that to curb air pollution, restaurants and eateries have been directed to make use of compressed natural gas (CNG), piped natural gas (PNG) or wood charcoal.

"*Tandoors* and grills must be operated on the premises and all the eateries must install an emission control system. Firewood and coal are prohibited and action will be taken against violators," an EDMC official said.

Restaurant owners, however, are unhappy with the move.

The owner of a restaurant in Shahdara said this is "not



Tandoori roti being prepared at a restaurant in Delhi. ■ FILE PHOTO

feasible in terms of cost".

"Most of my customers prefer food cooked in a coal-based clay oven and if I cannot use it, my business will be affected. Another factor is cost. I would invest in a CNG or PNG-based oven if it was affordable. The average cost of a medium-sized LPG cylinder is more than ₹1,800," he said.

Another restaurant owner from the area said he has

"been using an LPG-based clay oven for four years".

"An LPG-based clay oven is neither economical nor does it give a smokey flavour to the food. Wood charcoal is also an ineffective option and if this ban is to curb air pollution, then wood charcoal should have been prohibited," he said, adding this ban will not help cut down on pollution because there are larger problems which are yet to be attended to.

EDMC Commissioner Vikas Anand said the ban on firewood and coal "was not new" and that it had been "implemented last year".

"There is some logic behind this move and many restaurants have moved towards other fuel-based options. We are only implementing the rules that have been directed to us by authorities," Mr. Anand said.



Ready for holy dip: Preparations in full swing for Chhath Puja celebrations at Dwarka in Delhi on Tuesday. ■ V. V. KRISHNAN

BJP playing politics over Chhath, AAP busy with preparations: Rai

CM trying to shirk responsibility of Yamuna cleanliness: Tiwari

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Delhi in-charge and Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Tuesday said that the BJP is busy doing politics over Chhath Puja, while AAP's Ministers and MLAs have taken charge of preparations for the festival and are visiting ghats.

Mr. Rai inspected the preparations at Bhalswa lake and said that facilities — from tents to CCTV cameras — have been provided at the site. MLA Atishi inspected several Chhath ghats, including Giri Nagar and Tilak Khand.

"Our only wish is to help the people of Delhi, of Purvanchal to celebrate Chhath Puja without obstacles. Amidst the enthusiasm and the preparations, I would al-

Our only wish is to help the people of Delhi, of Purvanchal to celebrate Chhath Puja without obstacles. I urge the people to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines

GOPAL RAI
AAP Minister

so like to urge the people to exercise caution and adhere to COVID-19 guidelines. The role of the BJP is to impose its politics, while the responsibility of AAP is to help conduct the puja. So, they're doing their part and we are doing ours," Mr. Rai said.

Meanwhile, north-east Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari accused Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of trying to shirk his responsibility for the cleanliness of the Yamu-

na and blame the Haryana Government for increased ammonia levels.

Mr. Tiwari visited the Najafgarh drain on Tuesday. "I am here to expose the fact that the Yamuna falls prey to pollution not because of water from Haryana but because the Delhi Government did nothing to improve its situation over the past seven years," he said at a point where water from the Najafgarh drain was falling into the river.

"The Delhi Government has not only been misleading citizens but also the honourable Supreme Court about the efforts to clean the river. The CM is now disrespecting the Purvanchali people by trying to hold them and the Chhath festival responsible for the polluted Yamuna," he added.

IN BRIEF



Capital reports 33 new infections, no deaths

NEW DELHI
The city reported no COVID-19 deaths in the last 24 hours for the 17th day and the total number of fatalities stood at 25,091, said a bulletin released by the Delhi Government on Tuesday. Thirty-three new cases were reported, taking the total cases to 14,40,176.

Kejriwal gives ₹3 lakh to young athlete

NEW DELHI
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday handed over a cheque for ₹3 lakh to a young athlete, Lokesh Kumar, after learning about his financial difficulties. Mr. Kejriwal learnt about 15-year-old Lokesh's woes on social media and offered him help within three days, the Government said.

EDMC schools to have English-medium sections

NEW DELHI
East Delhi Municipal Corporation Mayor Shyam Sunder Aggarwal on Tuesday said that all schools under the civic body's jurisdiction will be upgraded with English-medium learning sections and will be called "Nigam Pratibha Vidyalaya". Of the 354 schools, 230 schools will open English-medium sections from Classes I to V.

Raise voter awareness, says Delhi CEO

NEW DELHI
Delhi's Chief Electoral Officer Dr. Ranbir Singh on Tuesday asked various Government departments to establish voter awareness forums for the ongoing special summary revision, 2022. The count of electors for the latest roll is lower than last year. Dr. Singh said the claims and objections regarding the draft would be accepted from November 1 to November 30.

'Wish she had told me about the threats earlier'

Acid survivor's husband says accused had taken her to his room on false pretext

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

A 26-year-old woman is battling for life at a hospital, days after she was attacked with acid by a man, Montu, whose advances she refused. The victim's husband wished she had told him that the man was threatening her.

Rakesh*, 30, who works at a private company in Bawana, said that he received a call at 4.30 p.m. on November 3 that his wife had been attacked. It took him 15 minutes to reach his residence

in Pooth Khurd where he got to know that Montu had tied his wife's hands and threw acid on her.

Mr. Rakesh, who hails from Bihar, had come to Delhi years ago and had been living in Badli. He got married to Pinki* in 2011 and the couple were living with their three children.

"We came to know about Montu about a year and a half ago as he lived in the neighbourhood. When I got to know that he had been making advances at my wife,

we left Badli and moved to Bawana three months ago," Mr. Rakesh said.

After shifting, Mr. Rakesh said that he saw Montu there a few times but didn't know that he had taken a room nearby. "About a month ago, I spotted him near my house and I asked him why he had come. He said he had come to meet the children. I told him to leave and never come back," he said.

On November 3, Montu told Pinki that he had proof of Mr. Rakesh's infidelity and

took her to his room on a false pretext. "She told me in the hospital that he had taken her to his room on this false pretext and asked her to leave me and marry him. She told me that Montu had threatened her previously and said that he would throw acid on her face if she didn't accept," Mr. Rakesh said.

"I wish she had told me about these threats earlier," he said.

(Names have been changed to protect the identity of the acid attack victim)

Funds under Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan poorly utilised: plea

HC seeks response of Delhi Government

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the Delhi Government to respond to a plea seeking utilisation of funds under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) towards the socio-economic development of people belonging to the Scheduled Caste community.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh gave the direction on a petition filed by Harnam Singh, who claims to be a social activist.

Mr. Singh, in his petition, said that the SCSP, which was introduced as part of the Sixth Five Year Plan in 1980, envisages "channelising a minimum flow of the outlays and benefits from all sectors of development in the annual plans of States/UTs and Central Ministries in proportion to the Scheduled Caste population of the State/UT concerned".

He contended that there is poor utilisation of funds allocated under the SCSP by the

authorities, which violates several rights guaranteed to the members of the Scheduled Caste community of Delhi under Articles 14, 15, 16, 21, 21A, 37, 38, 39, 41, 46 and 47 of the Constitution.

"Only a minuscule fraction of the allocated amount is spent by the State Government on the welfare of the Scheduled Castes in complete contravention of the 'Revised Guidelines' published by the then Planning Commission...", the plea said.

The plea said that in Delhi, the population of Scheduled Castes was 16.9% of the total population. He further said that a collective 17.92% of the budget outlay was spent on the welfare of SCs, STs, Other Backward Classes and minorities in 2020-2021.

He also said that the Delhi Government has not provided the latest and relevant information/data regarding the SCSP annual plan on its website.

The High Court will hear the case again on January 11.

'Perception of courts going on vacation like schools incorrect'

Pendency exists in spite of efforts by lawyers: HC judge

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi High Court Judge Justice Jayant Nath, who demitted office on Tuesday, said that the public perception of courts going on vacation like schools was not correct and that an "image change" was necessary.

Speaking at his farewell reference, Justice Nath said, "Courts are overburdened with long pending cases. Unfortunately, the perception of a common man is to blame the court for delay in disposal of cases."

"Much is said about the courts going on vacations, comparing it with school vacations. I can say with full conviction that this public image is not correct," Justice Nath said, adding that the pendency is there in spite of "huge efforts" by courts and lawyers.

"The reasons for delay are many but are not really attributable to the courts. All I can say is, the courts need to take some steps to project



this hard and good work that is being put in place by engaging an appropriate machinery. I feel some image change would be useful," Justice Nath said.

'Tunday Kababi' ruling

At the event, which was streamed live on YouTube through Delhi High Court's official account, Chief Justice D.N. Patel said Justice Nath will forever be remembered for his eminence and excellence as a judge of the High Court. "He shall be in our hearts as a member of the family," Chief Justice Patel said.

In December 2017, Justice

Nath ended the legal battle over ownership of the name "Tunday Kababi" after he ruled that the name belongs exclusively to Mohammad Usman, the grandson of Haji Murad Ali "Tunday" in Lucknow.

In June 2019, a Bench headed by Justice Nath took serious exception to video footages of cops dragging and assaulting a 15-year-old boy and his father in broad daylight in north-west Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar, describing it an evidence of "police brutality".

The Bench had then called for an independent report on the incident from an officer of the rank of Joint Commissioner of Police within a week.

In May this year, Justice Nath had ruled that the Delhi Government had no power to indefinitely postpone the collection of annual charges and development fees by private unaided schools as it would unreasonably restrict their functioning.

Opposition persistent on reduction of VAT on fuel

Delhi's VAT is highest in country: BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Opposition on Tuesday continued to exert pressure on the Delhi Government to slash fuel prices through a reduction in Value Added Tax (VAT).

While BJP MLAs staged a sit-in outside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's house for the second consecutive day, the Congress demonstrated outside the Delhi Secretariat.

BJP MLAs gathered outside the CM's residence on Tuesday afternoon, demanding relief for people. Vijender Gupta, Mohan Singh Bisht, Omprakash Sharma, Jitendra Mahajan, Anil Bajpai, Abhay Verma and Ajay Mahawar participated in the sit-in.

Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, sought to remind the CM that after winning the 2015 Assembly elections, he had promised that the VAT in Delhi would be the lowest in the next five years, but the opposite

had happened.

"Today the Delhi Government is charging the highest VAT on petrol and diesel in the country. We are reminding CM Kejriwal of his promise," Mr. Bidhuri said.

The Delhi Congress held a protest outside the Delhi Secretariat, demanding a reduction in fuel VAT. It said that despite many State Governments, including Punjab, reducing the VAT on petroleum products following a nominal reduction on excise duty by the Centre, the Delhi Government had not followed suit.

Delhi Congress chief Ch. Anil Kumar said, "In the last seven years, the Delhi Government has collected over ₹25,000 crore on VAT from petroleum products, but has spent hardly on Delhiites. Mr. Kejriwal often claims that 'he is the son of Delhi', and this is an apt opportunity for him to prove his 'Delhi' credentials, and provide relief to the people by reducing the oil prices."

Timings
DELHI

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 10		
RISE	06:40	SET 17:31
RISE	12:22	SET 22:56
THURSDAY, NOV. 11		
RISE	06:41	SET 17:30
RISE	13:10	SET 00:00
FRIDAY, NOV. 12		
RISE	06:41	SET 17:30
RISE	13:49	SET 00:00

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	28	14
Safdarjang	28	14
Palam	28	16

Delhi Palam Today
29°C A dry weather to continue. Shallow fog and mist will occur during cool morning. Day will be comfortable but polluted.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
28°C The weather will be dry. Moderate pollution level to continue. A cool and misty morning turns comfortable day with mainly clear sky.

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THE HINDU
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Gehlot likely to reduce VAT on petrol, diesel

Rajasthan is charging highest tax on fuel, says BJP

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

After urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to further slash the excise duty on fuel, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday said the State Government would reduce the value added tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel to provide relief to the people. The scope for extending the relief was being examined, Mr. Gehlot said. "When all States have taken action to reduce the fuel prices, we will have to follow suit... We will hold a meeting to take a decision on the reduction of VAT and make an announcement," Mr. Gehlot said at a public meeting during the 'Prashasan Gaon Ke Sang' (administration with villages) campaign in Jodhpur.

Mr. Gehlot was being pressured to reduce fuel prices after the Congress-

ruled Punjab cut down the price of petrol by ₹10 per litre and diesel by ₹5 per litre and claimed in an advertisement that its fuel prices were lower than those in Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan. The Opposition BJP took up the issue and targeted the State Government for its stand.

Poonia writes to Sonia
BJP State president Satish Poonia even wrote to Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday, requesting her to instruct Mr. Gehlot to announce VAT reduction in the interest of people. The BJP also said that the State Government was charging the highest VAT on fuel in the country.

Mr. Gehlot had earlier said that the VAT collection of the States had automatically reduced in a proportionate manner after the Centre's decision to cut the

excise duty on petrol by ₹5 per litre and on diesel by ₹10 per litre. He has been pitching for a slash in the additional excise duty, special excise duty and cess on fuel.

Several BJP-ruled States have reduced VAT rates after the Centre's move. In a letter addressed to the Prime Minister on Monday, Mr. Gehlot had said if the Centre further reduced the excise duty by ₹10 on petrol and ₹15 on diesel, then the VAT would automatically reduce by ₹3.40 on petrol and ₹3.90 on diesel. As a result, Rajasthan was ready to bear a revenue loss of ₹3,500 crore, he said.

The Chief Minister also said that the Centre had reduced the States' share in the excise duty on fuel after 2016 and the States were not getting any share from the additional or special excise duty charged by the Centre.

Param Bir created 'bad image' for police, CID tells court

Dept. seeks remand of two junior officers in extortion case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

A court here on Tuesday remanded two police officers in the custody of the Maharashtra Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in a case of alleged extortion in which former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh is one of the accused. Mr. Singh created a "bad image" for the Mumbai Police, Special Public Prosecutor Shekhar Jagtap told the court while seeking the remand of the arrested officers.

The CID has also sought a non-bailable warrant against Mr. Singh in the case, and the court is likely to pass an order on the plea on Wednesday.

"The notorious approach of Param Bir Singh, for ages, has created bad image of the Mumbai Police and others," said Mr. Jagtap.

The courts have already issued warrants against Mr. Singh in two other cases of extortion, one of them registered in Mumbai and another in neighbouring Thane.

Police Inspectors Nandkumar Gopale and Asha Korke, previously posted with the Mumbai Crime Branch, were produced on Tuesday before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate R.M. Nerlikar in an extortion case registered at the Marine Drive police station here.

Sent to custody

Mr. Gopale is currently posted at the Khandala police training centre while Ms. Korke is with the Naigaon local arms unit.

The judge sent them to seven days' custody of the CID after hearing the arguments. The two were arrested on Monday based on the complaint filed by real estate de-

veloper Shyamsunder Agrawal on July 22.

Seeking their custody, the CID said they had played active role in the crime and it wanted to investigate their connection with the other accused and their financial transactions. The money that was extorted from the complainant is yet to be recovered, the CID said, adding that it wanted to confront some witnesses with the accused.

Advocate Aniket Nikam, appearing for Mr. Gopale, opposed the remand plea, saying the accused had cooperated with the probe and appeared before the investigators four times. The FIR was registered in April for the offence allegedly committed in March and what was the CID doing for four months, he asked, pointing out that no chargesheet has been filed yet.

Centre moves SC on Delhi ration scheme

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre has moved the Supreme Court against a Delhi High Court decision clearing the way for the Delhi government's doorstep delivery of ration scheme.

A Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao on Tuesday adjourned the hearing to November 12.

A Bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Jasmeet Singh of the High Court had said that the Delhi Government should first issue communication to each of the fair price shop holders, informing them of the particulars of the ration cardholders who have opted to receive their rations at their doorstep.

"Only thereafter, the rations, to the extent that they are being supplied to such beneficiaries, need not be supplied to the fair price shop holders," the Bench had said.

Shillong Sikhs set precondition for talks

Meghalaya Government wants to shift them out of prime location to the outskirts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Harijan Panchayat Committee (HPC) representing the largely Dalit Sikh residents of a prime location in Meghalaya capital Shillong has set a precondition for talks with the State Government.

The residents of Them Iew Mawlong, known as the Harijan Colony or the Punjabi Lane, have been facing eviction following a conflict with some locals in 2018.

Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma had a few days ago

said the Government was open to holding talks with the stakeholders. The HPC responded by asking the Government to first recognise the existence and the presence of the settlers.

In a letter to the CM, HPC secretary Gurjit Singh appreciated the call for talks but said the residents facing eviction also need a formal agenda-based invitation from the Government to break the ice. "The residents of the colony never received an invitation from the high-level committee. On the con-

trary, we were constantly given veiled threats of forcible eviction," Mr. Singh said.

He trashed the claims of the CM and Deputy CM Prestone Tynsong that the committee had never received any representation or objection from them.

'Disclose agreement'

Mr. Singh also criticised the Government for not disclosing the contents of the tripartite agreement among the Government, the acting Syiem (king-like chieftain) of Mylliem and the Shillong

Municipal Board. The Government had in October claimed that it had taken possession of the colony land after paying a premium of ₹2 crore to the Syiem, the original owner of the land.

The HPC claims that some 350 Sikh and Punjab-origin families have been living in the colony since their forefathers were gifted the land by the then Syiem 200 years ago. "What is so sacrosanct in the agreement that it is not being made available even after filing of RTI applications?" Mr. Singh asked.

Dalit youth's death triggers a row in Kanniyakumari

His relatives refuse to receive the body

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KANNIYAKUMARI

The death of a Dalit youth has caused a controversy in Kanniyakumari after his relatives alleged foul play and refused to receive the body for the second day on Tuesday.

The police insisted that the youth had ended his life, but his relatives maintained that he was killed because he was in a love with a caste Hindu girl.

S. Sureshkumar, of Thovalai, was seen last on Monday in a garden near Kattuputhur, the native village of the girl.

He was taken to a private hospital and then to the Government Medical College Hospital, Asaripallam, where he died.

'He was attacked'

His relatives said the girl's family did not approve of their relationship and lodged a complaint with the Boothapandi police station. While Sureshkumar's family

appeared for an inquiry, he did not turn up. When searched, he was found in an unconscious state. His brother Suman Ananath had said in a complaint that there were injuries in Sureshkumar's neck and legs.

"He was attacked and then forced to drink poison," he said.

"He was vexed because their love affair could not end in marriage. When his relatives suspected foul play, we decided to conduct the post-mortem in their presence. The post-mortem report says he has consumed poison," said Kanniyakumari SP V. Badri Narayanan.

He said the police would consider all the facts highlighted by Sureshkumar's family while investigating the matter further.

(Assistance for those with suicidal tendency is available at the State's health helpline 104 or Sneha's suicide prevention helpline 044-24640050.)



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1.	कार्य का नाम	CRPFकैम्प (गिरिडीह बस स्टैण्ड के नजदिक)-आफिसर्स कॉलोनी-एस0पी0 कोठी (NH-114A पर) पथ (कुल लंबाई-1.20 कि०मी०) का पुनर्निर्माण कार्य वर्ष 2021-22
2.	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में)	₹ 2,73,39,075.00 (दो करोड़ तिहत्तर लाख उन्तालीस हजार पचहत्तर रूपये मात्र)
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4.	निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	29.11.2021 12:00 बजे दिन तक
5.	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशित होने की तिथि एवं समय	16.11.2021 10:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न
6.	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, गिरिडीह।
7.	प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क नं०	06532-227054
8.	ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्प लाईन नं०	0651-2401010

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S. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost in Rs.	Earnest money in Rs.	Cost of from in Rs.	Time
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2.	C/O GWSS Rohan Bharyana in G.P. Gounta & Rakhota, Tehsil Sarkaghat, Distt. (H.P.) (SH-Laying Jointing & Testing 15 mm dia Node No. 43-48 = 250 Rmt, 25mm dia Node No. 2-42 = 1500 Rmt, Total =1750 Rmt). Job No 2	2,66,489/-	5330/-	250/-	Three Months.
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Department of Environment, Government of NCT of Delhi



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Caught in the crossfire

India and Pakistan must ensure that fishermen are not victims of a deterioration in ties

An Indian fisherman was killed in firing by the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) off the Gujarat coast on November 7. This is the first such killing by the PMSA in the last six years though conflicts over fishing rights are not infrequent along the International Maritime Boundary Line between the two countries. Six other fishermen have reportedly been detained, while one injured person managed to return to Indian shores. India has termed Pakistan's action deplorable and "in contravention to all established international practices and bilateral understandings". On Monday, the Ministry of External Affairs summoned a Pakistani diplomat who was asked to investigate the incident and instruct its forces to refrain from unprovoked firing. According to the Gujarat government, a total of 345 fishermen from the State were lodged in Pakistan jails as on December 2020. In April 2020, Pakistani forces opened fire on two boats off the Gujarat coast injuring one person, and in 2019 they sunk an Indian boat in which six of seven fishermen onboard were rescued. One person went missing. Fishermen often get caught in the fluctuating fate of the bilateral relations between the two countries, which is currently at a low.

According to the National Fishworkers Forum, there are 558 Indian fishermen in Pakistani jails, and 74 from Pakistan in Indian prisons. The Forum calculates that 1,200 Indian fishing vessels are in Pakistan's custody. The families of these imprisoned people are in penury. Consular access to those in prison is difficult. Only 295 of the 558 prisoners in Pakistan could have their nationality verified. In 2007, both countries formed a joint judicial committee comprising eight retired judges — four each from India and Pakistan — to facilitate the exchange of civilian prisoners. The mechanism has been defunct since 2013, and attempts to revive it in 2018 did not bear fruit. Civilians along international borders often get caught in disputes between countries, and India has several such hotspots, on land and in sea. Even fishermen venturing near the India-Sri Lanka maritime border often fall victim though both countries maintain cordial bilateral ties. Many Indian villages along the borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh also become theatres of conflict, as communities often find it difficult to reconcile with international borders that divide their traditional spheres of economic and social activities. Pakistan has aggressively sponsored violence in India, and terrorists trained by its agencies sailed in a hijacked Indian fishing boat in 2008 to Mumbai. It is a tragedy that ordinary people could end up in a foreign prison while trying to earn their livelihood. India and Pakistan must consider this as a humanitarian crisis and work towards resolving it. And, both countries must avoid any escalation in tensions on account of the latest incident.

Overlapping interests

The U.P. police are making heavy weather of the task of probing farmers' deaths fairly

The Supreme Court of India continues to question the tardy progress in the ongoing probe into the October 3 violence during a farmers' protest at Tikonia in Lakhimpur-Kheri district, a situation that reflects poorly on the Uttar Pradesh police and administration. In its latest expression of dissatisfaction, the Court has indicated that it would like a retired High Court judge to monitor the investigation and has sought the State government's response. The Court's apprehensions are not without basis. A large number of witnesses coming forward ostensibly to help the police have ended up giving "exculpatory evidence", that is, their statements are in favour of some suspects. Another source of doubt about the fairness of the probe is that an overlap is being sought to be created between two FIRs registered in relation to the incidents: one relating to the mowing down of four farmers and a journalist covering the event by vehicles suspected to be part of the convoy of Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra; and another concerning retaliatory violence by the crowd, in which three persons were killed. Counsel for the State government has confirmed at the latest hearing that Raman Kashyap, reporting for a television channel, was indeed run over by a car, with the Court pointing out that an impression was sought to be given earlier that he was lynched by the mob. The idea of having a retired judge to monitor the probe seems to be prompted by the Court's keenness to ensure that the two crimes are not mixed up.

It would be in the public interest to have a judicial mind monitoring the probe. It would also have a salutary effect on the investigation as a precautionary measure against any attempt to dilute or derail the case. It is noteworthy that the judges on the Bench appear to think that some of the developments redound to the benefit of a particular accused. It seems to be an oblique reference to the influential Ashish Mishra. Such an impression will persist as long as the probe seems tardy, and the gathering of evidence is marshalled towards exonerating someone. Both the Union government and the ruling BJP are silent on the continuance of the suspect's father as a Union Minister, a factor that casts a shadow on the investigation. The Court is also not inclined to hand over the probe to the CBI, and is possibly right in holding that view. Recording the statements of witnesses before a judicial magistrate, certifying the electronic evidence available so far, and piecing together the evidence to make a strong case for the prosecution may be a time-consuming job, but what is expected of the State police is not a herculean task. There can be no excuse for allowing the fairness of the probe to come under a shadow of doubt.

In U.P., a missing tango and the BJP's waltz

If an SP-Congress tie-up fails to materialise, both parties might come to rue the price to pay next year and in 2024



ASIM ALI

In many ways, the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Indian National Congress in Uttar Pradesh make for natural alliance partners. Their social bases complement each other, they do not have too dissimilar an ideological outlook, and have displayed a large degree of consonance in terms of campaign issues. Yet, both parties are presently in the midst of a bruising feud, each accusing the other of colluding with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The SP has termed the Congress as the flip side of the BJP, part of the saffron strategy to confuse the voters, while the Congress has charged the SP with being too afraid of the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate to take on the BJP.

Incentives for a link

So there is the one fundamental question to ask: why are these two parties so hesitant to commit to a potentially mutually beneficial alliance? The answer to this question might help illuminate the state of Opposition politics in both the State and the country, shaped in fundamental ways by the BJP-dominant system. First, let us evaluate the case for the alliance from the point of view of both the parties.

The incentives for the Congress are relatively straightforward. If the last two elections in U.P. are anything to go by, the Congress has been reduced to a 6% vote-share party, with barely any pockets of stronghold. The evidence from the Assembly bypolls and the panchayat elections since then have only reinforced this impression, not to mention the steady stream of Congress leaders exiting the party for greener pastures. A

failure to get into an alliance with a larger party could well mean electoral decimation, in the manner of Delhi and West Bengal. Being the face of the U.P. campaign, it might also irrevocably damage the image of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra — the last remaining 'trump card' of the party. It might be instructive here to remember that the first time Rahul Gandhi became seared with the image of a political novice was after leading the disastrous 2012 campaign in Uttar Pradesh.

The draw for the Samajwadi party is no less compelling. The thrust of the Samajwadi campaign so far has been to make the fight for U.P. a bipolar contest. The trouble is that a direct duel with a party possessing a much larger social base is a losing proposition, minus a wave of massive anti-incumbency which has not surfaced so far. The BJP in Uttar Pradesh is a political behemoth, with a social catchment area ranging from upper castes, non-Yadav Other Backward Classes and non-Jatav Dalits. In a sense, the social base of the party in U.P. is roughly equivalent to a combination of the BJP and the Janata Dal (United) in neighbouring Bihar. The SP, meanwhile, is hamstrung by its traditionally narrow social base, anchored by Yadavs and Muslims.

The SP knows this, and its leader Akhilesh Yadav has spent much of his political career pushing his party to embrace a new umbrella avatar. Even so, the party has not done the hard yards of long-term social engineering: building up community leaders, cultivating caste alliances at the ground level, or immersing itself in new socio-political movements. It has now gone for the quickest available route: stitching up alliances with an array of smaller parties. This would, the party hopes, not only boost its electoral arithmetic, but also aid the social acceptability of the SP among the specific caste and community constituents of the smaller parties. Hence, it makes intuitive sense for the SP to clasp the Congress's hand which



FILE PHOTO/AFIP

does represent, in a sense, the biggest of the smaller parties of U.P. What, then, explains the jitters at the prospect of coming together? There are three reasons, all of which reveal one aspect of the electoral and ideological dominance of the BJP.

The Congress's decline

First, the decline of the Congress, accelerated as it has in the Narendra Modi era, has reached such a state where, in many States, it is not even a reliable junior partner. The Congress's recent record in grand alliances hardly commends it to any potential suitor. In last year's elections in Bihar, while the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the three Left parties won more than half the seats they contested, the Congress proved to be the fatal weak link. This was not an aberration as the Congress has been the laggard alliance partner in several State elections, from Tamil Nadu in 2016 to Maharashtra in 2019. Of course, Akhilesh Yadav has had personal experience of this phenomenon in the last elections, where the Congress fared considerably worse than the SP.

Meanwhile, the Congress, as a party slowly approaching a condition of existential crisis, fears it can no longer remain trapped in a state of low equilibrium. The mood in the party harks back to the Pachmarhi resolution of 1998, which declared that only those coalitions will be considered which are "absolutely necessary" and that "will not weaken the party". A long running thread in Congress thinking holds that the only way for the party to revive its so-

cial base and rejuvenate its organisation is through a period of expansive struggle directed against both the regional parties as well as the BJP.

The BJP's dominance

Second, the BJP's ideological dominance on the issues of religion and nationalism has ensured that success for Opposition parties in State elections depends on the extent to which they can neutralise the salience of 'national' issues and make the election about 'local' issues. The presence of a national party such as the Congress in an Opposition alliance, particularly one which has been the most forthright ideological opponent of the BJP under Rahul Gandhi, hampers such a strategy.

The Gandhi siblings display none of the caution of regional leaders such as Akhilesh Yadav in terms of challenging Mr. Modi and making him into an electoral factor. After all, the Congress leadership likely views the U.P. elections, in part, as a springboard to building itself up as the national alternative to the BJP in the next general election.

Third, the BJP's dominance has converted Muslims into a uniquely radioactive political community. The SP party understands that any alliance with the Congress would be painted by the BJP as an 'unholy alliance' cynically aimed at consolidating the 'Muslim votebank'. Even as the Congress has long claimed to have retained a base among Brahmins and non-Jatav Dalits in U.P., it has all but evaporated now. In the 2019 elections, only 6% of Brahmins and 7% of non-Jatav Dalits in Uttar Pradesh backed the party, almost exactly in line with its 6% aggregate vote-share in the State. The only really sizeable support base of the Congress remains among Muslims, with 14% overall choosing the party in 2019, and especially so in seats where the Congress stood a chance.

This is perhaps the most important reason why Akhilesh Yadav

has privileged allying with smaller parties such as the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBS), Janwadi Party and Mahan Dal over the larger Congress. Since the social base of these parties extends to one or more Hindu caste groups, the SP can cobble them together and portray itself to be the larger 'Hindu alliance'. This alliance strategy is also in harmony with the SP's recent political outreach, where it has aggressively courted non-Yadav OBC castes, the Scheduled Castes, and the Brahmins, but has extended only the most rare and indirect gestures towards Muslims. The political logic behind this approach is that once the party has proven itself to have a support base among Hindus rivaling the BJP, Muslims would automatically flock to it over a third alternative, as shown by the Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi and the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal.

Of course, there is a possibility that the present rift between the two parties might represent nothing more than adroit jockeying for a larger share in an eventual alliance. In this interlude of brinkmanship, the Congress might be establishing itself as a major player and the SP might be demonstrating itself as the only alternative pole.

However, if this marriage actually fails to materialise, both parties might come to rue the price to pay. A recalcitrant approach from the Congress could prove fatal not just in these elections but also for its hopes of stitching up a joint opposition against the BJP in 2024. The SP, meanwhile, could consider the range of middle-ground options between a no deal with the Congress and the bad deal it had struck last time. For a party that has never broken its 30% vote-share ceiling, facing the BJP in a seemingly bipolar contest, it scarcely has the luxury of spurning partners.

Asim Ali is a political researcher and columnist based in Delhi

India needs to sign up for life-course immunisation

The COVID-19 vaccination drive is a reminder that the benefits of many vaccines have yet to reach the adult population



CHANDRAKANT LAHARIYA

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, most people linked and associated vaccination with children only. The fact is that vaccines — ever since the first vaccine against smallpox became available in 1798 — had always been for a far wider age group, including for adults. However, soon after smallpox eradication and the launch of the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) across the world in the 1970s — and in India in 1978 — there were concerted efforts to increase vaccine use and coverage in children. Scientifically, the benefit of most vaccines are greater if administered earlier in life — infancy and childhood — a reason children are usually prioritised and vaccines recommended for every child. For the remaining age groups including adults, vaccines are recommended for specific sub-groups such as older people or those with specific health conditions.

The COVID-19 vaccines are exceptions in some sense. These are the first vaccines which have been recommended for all adults, who have been given priority over children. In fact, the jury is still out on whether, which age sub-group and when children should receive COVID-19 vaccines.

The importance of vaccines, which are considered to be among the most cost-effective public health interventions, has been recognised globally. Yet, the full benefits of vaccines do not reach all children and other age groups. There are wide inequities in vaccine coverage in children by geography, gender, parent's education and family's socio-economic sta-

tus, and other stratifiers. The coverage of most available vaccines in adults in India is sub-optimal. The COVID-19 vaccination drive is an opportunity to take stock of the status of adult immunisation and the future ahead.

Need for adult vaccination

Following the outbreaks of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) in 2005-06 — in the years that followed — India had conducted mass scale JE vaccination in the endemic districts, which included the adult age group. Then, there had been a limited use of Swine Flu vaccines for health workers during the H1N1 (2009) pandemic in 2009-10. Other than that, there has been limited focus on the systematic efforts for adult vaccination in India. The first and only national vaccine policy of India, released in 2011, had no mention of adult vaccination. The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) in India, on a few occasions, discussed adult immunisation but stayed away from any recommendation for the general population except for the vaccination of health workers as high-risk groups, for hepatitis B vaccine, etc.

Outside the Government, professional groups such as the Association of Physicians of India and the Indian Society of Nephrology have released guidelines on adult vaccination; however, as these are voluntary and the private sector share in vaccination in India is very small, understandably, the impact remains unknown and is likely to be low.

There is very limited data on the burden of vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) in adult age groups — in most settings including India. Lately, review of available data has pointed that the increased childhood vaccination coverage has resulted in proportionately higher cases of VPDs in the older age groups. It is known that the bur-



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

den of VPDs in adults (in comparison to children) is relatively low; the larger adult population renders a greater social impact in terms of absenteeism from work (due to illnesses) and the associated costs of health care seeking and hospitalisation.

There is emerging scientific evidence on waning immunity and the need of booster doses in the adult age group for the vaccines administered in childhood. The vaccines which have become available in the last two decades (which adults had not received as children), have potential to be beneficial. As an example, there are more deaths due to pneumonia in adults than in children. A proportion of those illnesses, hospitalisations and deaths — in all age groups — can be prevented by increasing coverage of currently licensed vaccines which prevents pneumonia and related complications. Fortunately, these vaccines have become part of childhood vaccination programmes; however, the coverage and benefits need to be expanded to the identified high-risk adult population. The available evidence has resulted in the global stakeholders agreeing to 'the Immunization Agenda 2030' (<https://bit.ly/3qIKnH1>) which has emphasised that countries should consider extending the benefit of vaccines to all age groups.

An opportunity in hand

The COVID-19 vaccination drive has drawn our attention to the possibilities of adult vaccination, which should be used effectively.

The initiatives should be taken to educate public, health-care pro-

viders and members of professional associations about currently available vaccines for adult age groups. This can help people to make an informed choice and healthcare providers to share information with citizens. Various training programmes and graduate and postgraduate teaching curricula should be revised to have content on adult vaccination.

The current discourse should be used to plan and develop a national adult vaccination strategy and road map for India. It can be done through a few coordinated efforts.

The steps to take

First, the mandate of NTAGI needs to be expanded to adult vaccination. NTAGI may start with a review of available scientific evidence and providing recommendations on adult vaccination in India. These recommendations can be regularly revisited and revised once additional data become available. A NTAGI subgroup on adult vaccination can also be constituted to facilitate the process.

Second, the VPD surveillance system and the capacity to record, report and analyse data on the disease burden and immunisation coverage need to be strengthened. The focus has to be on analysing immunisation coverage and VPD surveillance data by age and other related stratifiers.

Third, the capacity of research and academic institutions to conduct operational research including the cost benefit analysis and to guide evidence-informed decisions needs to be boosted. Such analysis and evidence can be used by NTAGI in decision making processes.

Fourth, the process for developing and drafting a road map, possibly India's national adult vaccination policy and strategy should be initiated. Any such policy should factor-in the learnings and lessons

from the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination drive as well. In fact, policy questions in need of the answers should be identified now, and the process to generate evidence started. Otherwise, we may be at risk of asking policy questions 10 years down the line which can be answered in a few years from now.

Fifth, on a more operational level, the shortage of life-saving rabies vaccine in India in 2019 is a reminder of the risk and vulnerability in vaccine supply. To ensure vaccine security and be future ready for adult vaccination, the existing public sector vaccine manufacturing units in India should be revived and more need to be set up.

Vaccination policy for adults

The childhood vaccination programme is amongst the best performing government health programmes in India. In COVID-19 vaccination, it was the government facilities which have delivered 93%- 95% of total vaccine shots. The COVID-19 vaccination is a reminder that the benefits of already licensed vaccines are yet to reach the adult population. It is an opportunity for health policy makers in India to institutionalise mechanisms to examine the need, take policy decisions on adult vaccination and empower adult citizens to make informed choices on whether they wish to get currently available vaccines. It is time to plan for and expand the benefits of vaccines, for all age groups as part of the Universal Immunization Programme Plus in India. Drafting and developing a national adult vaccination policy and strategy for India could be one such concrete step in this direction.

Chandrakant Lahariya, a physician-epidemiologist, is a vaccines and health systems specialist. His forthcoming book is 'The Lighthouse of Peergarhi: What We Need To Prevent Diseases And Protect Health'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Court on probe

In view of the murderous attack on the hapless farmers and the violence that erupted subsequently at Lakhimpur-Kheri, it is paramount on the part of the investigating agencies to act with conscience and see

that the inhuman murderers are given exemplary punishment without falling victim to the dictates of the powers that be. This becomes very important in view of the clout and influence the

main accused wield.

THARCIUS S. FERNANDO,
Chennai

Cities and flooding

Every Indian city with a dense population faces the risk of getting inundated with rainwater. This is

principally due to poor stormwater drainage which gets clogged because there is no periodical cleaning. If open drainage is no longer permissible, the government of the day must ensure that no waste gets accumulated. Even the

underground sewerage meant for households poses problems during 'non-monsoon' months. In fact, there is no inspection of the drainage system by the authorities concerned. If one heavy shower overnight followed by

incessant heavy drizzle can throw life out of gear, we need the expertise of a foreign expert to set things right!

V. LAKSHMANAN,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

To read more letters online, scan the QR code



India must remain safe for diversity

Nehru's vision is vindicated when we safeguard the common space available to each identity



SHASHI THAROOR

There are three kinds of writers coexisting within Shashi Tharoor, says David Davidar in his introduction to *Pride, Prejudice and Punditry*: "The writer of newspaper columns, book reviews, and magazine articles; the creator of literary fiction; and the author of heavyweight books of popular history, sociology, and current affairs." This is an edited excerpt of a profile of Jawaharlal Nehru and his idea of India from the book, a collection of the best of Tharoor's fiction and non-fiction.

Jawaharlal Nehru was a skilled exponent of soft power, much before the term was even coined: he developed a role for India in the world based entirely on its civilisational history and its moral standing, making India the voice of the oppressed and the marginalised against the big power hegemony of the day. This gave our country enormous standing and prestige across the world for years, and strengthened our own self-respect as we stood, proud and independent, on the global stage.

Indeed, we are still drawing from these traditions. After all, in the information age, it is not the side with the bigger army that wins, but the side which tells the better story. India must remain the 'land of the better story'. As a society with a free press and a thriving mass media, with a people whose creative energies are daily encouraged to express themselves in a variety of appealing ways, India has an extraordinary ability to tell stories that are more persuasive and attractive than those of its rivals. This is not about propaganda; indeed, it will not work if it is directed from above, least of all by government. But its impact, though intangible, can be huge. This soft power, too, is Nehru's legacy; he created a standing for India out of all proportion to our military strength or economic might.

Yet soft power is not just what we can deliberately and consciously exhibit or put on display; it is rather how others see what we are, whether or not we are trying to show it to the



Former PM Nehru with Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

world. It is not just material accomplishments that enhance India's soft power. Even more important are the values and principles for which India stands, and I do believe Nehru would have applauded this evolution of his own approach to world affairs.

Absorbing transformations

India has in recent years undergone profound transformations in its politics (from the dominant Congress system to a proliferation of regional parties to the dominance of the now-ascendant Bharatiya Janata Party), its economics (from a controlled 'socialist' economy to a thriving, if mixed, free-enterprise system), its trade (from protectionism to globalisation and perhaps partially back again), and its social relations (from a rigidly hierarchical caste system to a more egalitarian policy affirming opportunities and outcomes for the 'lowest' castes, and from a secular political culture to one in which a party of the Hindu majority is overtly asserting its strength). Now, any of these transformations could have been enough to throw another country into a turbulent revolution. But we have had all four in India and yet we have absorbed them, and made all the changes work, because the Indian revolution is a democratic one, sustained by a larger idea of India, an India which safeguards the common space available to each identity, an India that remains safe for diversity. That was Nehru's vision, and this is his vindication.

The truth is that Nehru's extraordinary life and career is part of the inheritance of every Indian. The very term 'Indian' was imbued with such



■ **Pride, Prejudice and Punditry**
Shashi Tharoor
Aleph Book Company
₹999

meaning by Nehru that it is impossible to use it without acknowledging a debt: our passports incarnate his ideals. Where those ideals came from, whether they were brought to fulfillment by their own progenitor, and to what degree they remain viable today, are all legitimate issues for debate. Nehru's impact on India is too great not to be re-examined periodically. His legacy is ours, whether we agree with everything he stood for or not. What we are today, both for good and for ill, we owe in great measure to one man. That is why his story is not simply history.

Today, both Gandhi's and Nehru's legacies are fundamentally contested, and many Indians have strayed from the ideals bequeathed to them by Gandhi and Nehru, Ambedkar and Patel. Yet they, in their very different ways, each represented that rare kind of leader who is not diminished by the inadequacies of his followers. Today, the ruling BJP and its followers lose no opportunity to denigrate Nehru, especially on social media, accusing him of every conceivable sin of both commission and omission. It is like throwing pebbles at a mountain. They cannot even begin to dent the scale of his contributions to India.

Even the most distinguished leader of the BJP has in the past – despite many areas of disagreement – acknowledged the legacy of Nehru as a champion of the country. Speaking in Parliament on Nehru's death, Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared emotionally – and poetically – that with the prime minister's passing 'a dream has remained half-fulfilled, a song has become silent, and a flame has vanished into the Unknown. The dream was of a world free of fear and hunger; the song a great epic resonant with the spirit of the Gita and as fragrant as a rose, the flame a candle which burnt all night long, showing us the way.' The loss, Vajpayee averred, was not merely that of a family or even of a party. Mother India, he said, was in mourning because 'her beloved Prince has gone to sleep'; even humanity was sad because its servant and worshipper had left it forever. Vajpayee went on to describe the departed prime minister as a 'benefactor of the downtrodden' and the 'chief actor of the world stage' whom he compared to none less than Lord Ram, for like Valmiki's (and the Hindutvavadi's) hero, Nehru was 'the orchestrator of the impossible and inconceivable'. He too (I'm still quoting Vajpayee) 'was not afraid of compromise but would never compromise under duress'.

One might say that these words were only to be expected from a gracious adversary in tribute to a deceased prime minister. But Vajpayee's statements went far beyond the claims of ritual. He called on the nation to rededicate itself to Nehru's ideals. 'With unity, discipline and self confidence,' Vajpayee said, in words that could never have been Narendra Modi's, 'we must make this Republic of ours flourish. The leader has gone, but the followers remain. The sun has set, yet by the shadow of stars we must find our way. These are testing times, but we must dedicate ourselves to his great aim, so that India can become strong, capable and prosperous...'

This remains the cherished goal of all Indians. As we make our political choices, we would do well to recall the first leader of independent India and the values and principles on which he built our democratic polity.

Excerpted with permission from Aleph Book Company. Shashi Tharoor is a Congress MP

There are shades of equality

The Kerala government's decision to reserve a higher proportion of scholarships for Muslims is justified



THULASI K. RAJ & BASTIAN STEUWER

Assume that in a classroom, a teacher is faced with students with differing command over the English language. There are three groups: some students are excellent, some require minimal guidance, and some others, a lot of attention. The teacher decides to give a special class of half an hour for the second group and a class for two hours for the third. Since the first group needs no additional support, they won't be given any. Is the teacher wrongfully discriminating among her students? Most of us would think that she is not. Treating students at different levels in the same way would do little to help those who lag behind. Those students could benefit from some support to catch up with those ahead. This is the idea behind affirmative action and reasonable accommodation: to enable those who are worse off to become on par with others.

What is true in the classroom context is also true in a policy context. The controversy around the award of scholarships to minority students in Kerala illustrates this. The dispute surrounds the question of how scholarships for minority students should be distributed between different minority groups. On October 29, the Supreme Court issued notice on an appeal of the Kerala government against a High Court order directing it to award the scholarships by the proportion of minorities in the overall population of the State.

Minority scholarships

The background of the decision is as follows. The Kerala government passed an executive order in 2015 prescribing that minority communities will be entitled to scholarships. Of the scholarships, 80% were distributed to Muslim students and 20% to Latin Catholics and converted Christians. In *Justine Pallivathukkal v. State of Kerala* (2021), the Kerala High Court set aside this order holding that all minorities must be treated alike. Hence, it held that the only relevant criterion is the minority groups' share of the population.

The government argued that its policy was based on the findings of the Sachar Committee report and the Kerala Padana report on the disadvantages faced by Muslims. It pointed out that Muslims were far behind Christians, Dalits and Adivasis in college enrolment, just as they are in employment and

land ownership. Besides, studies on discrimination in labour and housing markets reveal that Muslims experience substantial levels of discrimination when applying for jobs or housing, often even more than Dalits.

Equalising access

All of this underlines the point that some minorities face greater obstacles than others. Scholarships for minority students are a form of affirmative action. The aim is to facilitate students from these communities to study, and reduce the inequalities between different communities. If that is the goal, the only sensible policy is one which identifies the most disadvantaged groups. This is exactly what the Kerala government did.

Hence, reserving a higher proportion of scholarships for Muslims is justified. The different kinds of backwardness of a community must be considered while awarding scholarship schemes. Any other scheme defeats the purpose of offering scholarships to students from minority communities. The High Court prohibited an allocation sensitive to social realities by adopting a form of blind equality approach. This was a mistake. This is not in consonance with the constitutional and just vision of equality, a vision which needs to be mindful of social inequalities. As the Supreme Court rightly noted in *B. K. Pavitra v. Union of India* (2019), "For equality to be truly effective or substantive, the principle must recognise existing inequalities in society to overcome them."

It is important, therefore, that the Supreme Court corrects the error of the High Court. This case will be significant for constitutional law. It will determine how representation is understood in the law on reservations. The High Court's reasoning suggests that access to the benefits of affirmative action must follow an approach which is blind to the relative backwardness of different communities. This is dangerous in the Indian context. One of Ambedkar's great insights was that the caste system is a form of graded inequality. Even when we identify disadvantaged castes or communities, we need to remember the forms of inequality and hierarchy among them. The logic of the High Court's judgment forbids this. It tells us that once we identify the beneficiaries of measures of affirmative action, we need to treat everyone alike regardless of any inequalities or hierarchies between them. We should not let such bad reasoning obstruct affirmative efforts to remove inequality. The fight against inequality is too important for that.

Thulasi K. Raj is a lawyer at the Supreme Court and Bastian Steuwer is a political philosopher at Rutgers University

STATE OF PLAY

The cost of BJP's tug of war

The Rajasthan bypolls serve as a lesson for the BJP on leadership, unity and ticket distribution

MOHAMMED IQBAL

The rift has widened in the Rajasthan unit of the BJP after the party's defeat in the recent Assembly bypolls to the Dhariawad and Vallabh Nagar seats, where the party's candidates were pushed to the third and fourth position, respectively. The BJP will be forced to introspect on this loss and find a way forward for the 2023 Assembly election.

Rival camps

The BJP's defeat has been attributed mainly to the wrong selection of candidates and the party's failure to give a convincing reply to the voters' questions on price rise. But the loss could also be attributed to the massive infighting in the party. The rival camps in the party are led by BJP State president Satish Poonia and former Chief Minister Vasundhara Rajé. After defeats in successive bypolls, Ms. Rajé's loyalists have been demanding that she be brought to the centre-stage and projected as the party's face for the next elections. Not only was Ms. Rajé sidelined during the exercise to choose the contestants, but the sentiments of local party workers in the two constituencies were also largely disregarded. Ms. Rajé did not visit the two constituencies during the election campaign and attributed her absence to her daughter-in-law's ill health.



RAJASTHAN

According to political observers, the BJP's top leadership, which had marginalised Ms. Rajé, will have to consider ways of bringing her back to infuse energy among the party workers. The formation of a new outfit in support of Ms. Rajé earlier this year had created ripples in the political circles in the State, with its office-bearers urging that she be appointed Chief Minister in the event of the party's victory in the 2023 election. Since the formation of the Congress government in 2018, Ms. Rajé has remained silent on the issues of the State and avoided making public appearances.

Two of Ms. Rajé's loyalists – former MLAs Prahlad Gunjal and Bhawani Singh Rajawat – have questioned the party's defeat in the bypolls and demanded that the leadership mantle be handed over to her. Mr. Gunjal said the present leadership should not only accept responsibility for the defeat, but also realise that only Ms. Rajé is capable of competing with a strong Congress leader like Ashok Gehlot. About 20 MLAs loyal to Ms. Rajé recently wrote to the BJP State president alleging bias in the Assembly proceedings. The BJP had earlier expelled former Minister Rohitash Sharma, considered close to Ms. Rajé, from the primary membership for six years on the ground of breach of party discipline. However, the anti-Rajé camp asks why she should be brought back when the party lost the 2018 elections under her leadership.

Meanwhile, the Congress has attacked the BJP, saying the party is a divided force and its multiple leaders are eyeing the chief ministerial post. Speculations have been rife about Ms. Rajé's growing differences with the BJP's State leadership and the increasing clout of the party's central leaders in the State. Denying rumours of factionalism, Mr. Poonia has been trying to shift focus to the ruling Congress, which has also been embroiled in infighting. This came to the fore last year when a rebellion was staged by the then Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot and some MLAs. Mr. Poonia has said that the Congress is using Rajasthan to save its credibility and its support to the farmers agitating against the three farm laws amounted to "political hypocrisy".

The BJP has secured only one seat in the seven bypolls held in the State since the last Assembly election. While the Congress also has issues, it put up a united front for the elections. These bypolls serve as a lesson for the BJP on leadership, unity and ticket distribution.

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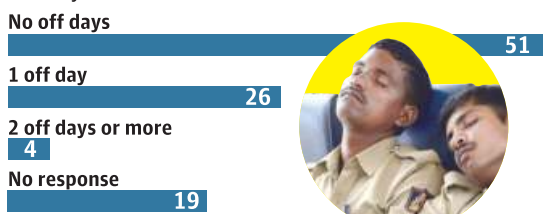
DATA POINT

Unburden the police

On November 3, the Tamil Nadu government sanctioned a one-day weekly off for police personnel up to the rank of Head Constable, so that they can care of their health and spend time with their families. The move was necessitated by the fact that one in two police personnel in India do not get weekly offs, according to a 2019 survey. On average, 80% of the force work more than eight hours a day. Nearly seven in 10 personnel also reported that a higher workload took a toll on their physical and mental health and prevented them from performing their job effectively. **The Hindu Data Team**

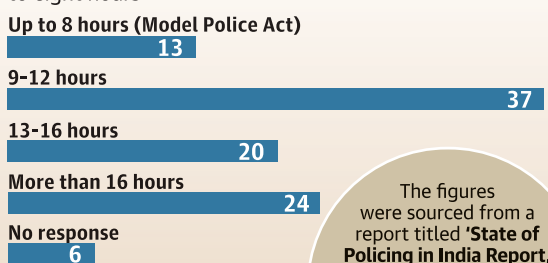
Weekly offs

The chart shows the average weekly offs police personnel get in India. One in two personnel said they did not get weekly offs while 26% reported that they get one day off a week as mandated in the Model Police Act

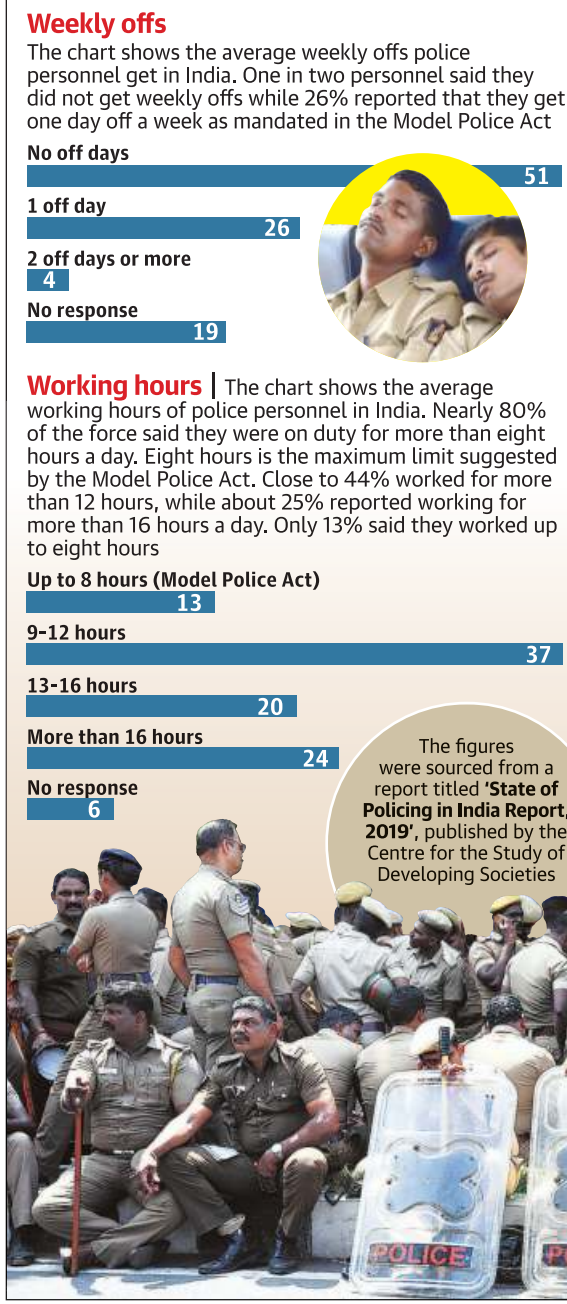


Working hours

The chart shows the average working hours of police personnel in India. Nearly 80% of the force said they were on duty for more than eight hours a day. Eight hours is the maximum limit suggested by the Model Police Act. Close to 44% worked for more than 12 hours, while about 25% reported working for more than 16 hours a day. Only 13% said they worked up to eight hours

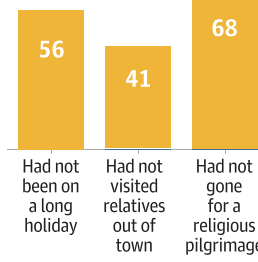


The figures were sourced from a report titled 'State of Policing in India Report, 2019', published by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies



Poor work-life balance

About 56% of family members of the police force reported that they had not been on a long holiday in the past two to three years. About 68% said they had not been on a pilgrimage in the past two to three years. And 41% reported that they had not visited their relatives out of town



Workload effects

The table lists the impact of long working hours on the police force. Overall, 76% of the personnel reported that a high workload made it difficult for them to perform their duties well. More than 80% of the force said that the workload made it difficult for them to devote time to their families. As many as 73% said the workload took a toll on their physical and mental health

Personnel	Workload makes it difficult to do the job well	Not able to devote enough time to family	Workload is affecting physical and mental health
Overall	76	84	73
Men	75	84	74
Women	77	84	73
Constabulary	76	84	73
Sr. State police	75	86	75
Civil police	78	85	74
Armed police	69	80	70

ALL FIGURES ARE IN %

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 10, 1971

Normal ties with China: P.M.'s offer

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, said to-day [Paris, November 9] that India was prepared to resume normal relations with China and exchange ambassadors without waiting for a solution of the border problem between the two countries. Asked at her press conference whether India would make use of French good offices for resumption of normal diplomatic relations with China, Mrs. Gandhi pointed out that India had diplomatic relations at the level of 'Charge d'Affaires'. "We have no objection to an exchange of ambassadors and we hope this will be done. If the French Government can help, we have no objection to that," the Prime Minister added. Earlier, she was asked whether India was ready to resume normal relations with China on the basis of the status quo on the border and in regard to the Akasi Chin area. "This is a question that could be discussed. So far as normalisation of relations is concerned, I made a statement immediately after I became Prime Minister in 1966," Mrs. Gandhi said. (Mrs. Gandhi said in 1966 that she would maintain the friendly relations with the neighbouring countries). Mrs. Gandhi in reply to questions said that as far as she knew both France and the United States had cut off arms aid to Pakistan.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOV. 10, 1921

Indian Situation

London, November 8: Lord Chelmsford reading a paper on India at a meeting of the Colonial Institute over which the Marquess of Crewe presided, said that the problem of the status of Indians in the Dominions and Colonies would not be solved by fiery speeches or by impatient handling, but by patient exploration of facts and steady pressure by the Government of India. Lord Chelmsford believed that the Government of India would never recede from the principle which he laid down in a speech at the beginning of 1920 that there was no justification in a Crown Colony or Protectorate for assigning to British Indians a status in any way inferior to any other class of His Majesty's subjects. Lord Chelmsford hoped that India would have faith in the Government and would leave it for them to press patiently and persistently for its fulfilment. Referring to Non-Co-operation, Lord Chelmsford said that the foolish and impracticable character of the movement was obvious.

NSA Doval meets Tajik, Uzbek counterparts

'Afghanistan was the major focus of discussions'

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Delhi Regional Security Dialogue, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval met his counterparts from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan for separate bilateral meetings here on Tuesday where they discussed the terror threats from Afghanistan, the humanitarian crisis unfolding there and the need for an inclusive and "legitimate" Government in Kabul. Mr. Doval will join the NSAs and the security chiefs for an eight-nation conference on Wednesday morning, to discuss the issues further.

"Afghanistan was the major focus of discussions. Both sides agreed that the future of Afghanistan must be decided by the people of Afghanistan themselves," sources said after Mr. Doval's meeting with Uzbekistan Secretary of the Security Council Lt. Gen. Victor Makhmudov in the South Block, adding that the question of legitimacy should be dealt with before discussing international recognition to the Government in Kabul.

At present, no country has recognised the Taliban Interim Government and the Taliban has rejected calls for an electoral process to decide who will succeed the previous Ghani Government.

Humanitarian crisis

"Both sides emphasised the need for neighbours to ensure unhindered access of humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan. They also agreed that the neighbours must play a constructive role there," sources



Strategic meet: NSA Ajit Doval with his Uzbekistan counterpart Victor Makhmudov during their meeting. ■PTI

said in comments that appeared to be aimed at Pakistan which has declined India's request to send medical and wheat shipments as aid by road to Afghanistan. The U.N. had earlier warned that more than half the population of Afghanistan could face a crisis with food stocks running out.

The comments come a week after Mr. Makhmudov was in Islamabad to establish a Joint Security Commission agreement with the Pakistan Government to strengthen strategic ties and connectivity.

Deepening cooperation

Tajikistan's Secretary of the Security Council Nasrullo Rahmatjon also "highlighted the gravity of the situation in Afghanistan" from a "sharp increase" in terrorist threats during his meeting with Mr. Doval. Sources said both countries have a significant

convergence of assessments on Afghanistan.

Tajik President Emomali Rahmon has taken the toughest line amongst the Central Asian states on the Taliban for its "human rights violations" and the Government is believed to have hosted members of the anti-Taliban "National Resistance Front" led by Ahmed Masoud at various times in the past few months.

Government sources privy to the conversation said Mr. Doval and Mr. Rahmatjon also spoke about deepening cooperation in areas like defence, border management and border infrastructure development.

On Wednesday, Mr. Doval will host the plenary session of all the security chiefs attending the dialogue. In the afternoon, he will hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Russia, Iran and Kazakhstan.

INTERVIEW | KARAMBIR SINGH

'GMC to forge solutions to key issues'

Seas permit free flow of commerce and ideas, says Navy chief

DINAKAR PERI
DONA PAULA

The Indian Navy is monitoring the Chinese Navy and its maritime assets deployed in the IOR, says Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh on the sidelines of the Goa Maritime Conclave. Excerpts:

The GMC has grown as a platform. In the backdrop of developments in the region, what is the focus of this edition and the forward?

■ The aim of the conclave is to bring together a smaller group of navies in the immediate neighbourhood, look at the common challenges that we face and forge tangible solutions to key issues. We bring together practitioners and scholars to discuss these challenges. The re-arter, we have an exclusive session wherein the heads of navies will discuss one-on-one the way forward to these challenges. This year, the theme is 'Maritime Security and Emerging Non Traditional Threats: The Case for Proactive Role for Indian Ocean Region Navies'. We will examine information-sharing, hydrographic cooperation, maritime law enforcement, training, opportunities in disaster response, crisis management etc.

Each GMC is followed by a Goa Maritime Symposium (GMS). During the GMS, we follow up discussions that have happened during the GMC and work to bring them to fruition through an action plan that will be presented back again to the naval heads. And since we are a smaller grouping, it will be easier for us to do that.

In addition to increased

forays into the IOR (Indian Ocean Region), the PLA Navy now has a base in Djibouti and are building ships faster than anyone else. In this backdrop, how are you prioritising your modernisation as well as operational philosophy?

■ As a Navy, we are monitoring the Chinese Navy and Chinese maritime assets that are deployed in the IOR, including Chinese research vessels to watch out for any activities inimical to our interests. It is true that the Chinese have a presence in the IOR. And whatever you said, bases and presence is a fact.

What is the way forward for Quad as well the Malabar exercise, given the growing interest in the region?

■ I think we need to differentiate between Malabar and the Quad. The former precedes the latter. It was in 1992 that we started Malabar with the U.S. Navy, and the re-arter, it has grown over a period of time to include Japan and Australia. What we are achieving in Malabar is that we are continuously increasing the scope and complexity of the exercise so that we are able to seamlessly cooperate with each other. And if required, for any contingency or any challenge, we can easily come in a plug and play format and operate. As for the Quad, it is basically a Ministry of External Affairs' (MEA) construct.

India has signed all the foundational agreements with the U.S. and logistics support agreements with several countries, including Australia and Japan. How has the Navy benefited from these agreements?



The main thing that navies require is 'Reach and Sustainance'

■ These are all important agreements that we've signed. When we sign these agreements, say LEMOA (Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement), and our ships are deployed off Guam, we are able to take fuel from their tankers. Or when we are operating off Australia, we will be able to take fuel from their tanker. The main thing that navies require is 'Reach and Sustainance'. These are two very important principles on which any Navy operates. The agreements that we have, including the foundational agreements, have helped us in being able to achieve this 'Reach and Sustainance', which is very important for us.

What were the top challenges during your tenure at the helm? Since the developments in Afghanistan, there have been apprehensions of possible smuggling of weapons via the sea route in addition to narcotics. What is your assessment?

■ Narco-terrorism is a real threat that we envisage. There is a connection between drug trafficking and arms trafficking. Organisa-

tions like ISIS Khorasan depend a fair amount on the money that they make out of drugs. We have intelligence that indicates that there is a flow of drugs from the Makran coast, down to the East coast of Africa, from where it moves to the island nations, which are tourism dependent economies, and then to Sri Lanka and India and also across the world.

This is a threat that we are aware of, and we have initiatives such as the Colombo Security Conclave, wherein we want to do certain Focused Operations with countries that are affected by challenges such as drug trafficking to put an end to this scourge.

What is your assessment of the concept of Mission Based Deployments (MBD) that began five years back?

■ Mission Based Deployments, which started in 2017, have been of significant utility to us. First, when ships are on regular deployment in key areas in the IOR, they increase their familiarity with the area of operation. We are also available for response in any situation... So that establishes our credibility and assures friendly nations that we are ready to assist anytime.

Also, when we talk of our endeavour to be a Preferred Security Partner, we have to be around to come to assistance... MBD has actually transformed the Navy from a deployment ready Navy to a deployed Navy. The intention is to continue with this particular method of deployment.

(To read the full interview, log on to bit.ly/NavyChiefInterview)



Hari Kumar to take over as Navy chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Vice Admiral R. Hari Kumar, presently Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) Western Naval Command, has been appointed as the next Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS). He will take over on November 30 when incumbent Admiral Karambir Singh retires from service.

"The Government has appointed Vice Admiral R. Hari Kumar presently FOC-in-C Western Naval Command as the next CNS with effect from the afternoon of November 30, 2021," a Defence Ministry statement said.

Vice Admiral Kumar graduated from J-squadron, 61 Course National Defence Academy in December 1981 and was commissioned into the Executive Branch of the Navy on January 1, 1983.

During a career spanning nearly 39 years, he has served in a variety of Command, Staff and Instructional appointments. Vice Admiral Kumar's Sea Command includes Coast Guard Ship C-01, *INS Nishank*, Missile Corvette, *INS Kora* and Guided Missile Destroyer *INS Ranvir*.

He also commanded aircraft carrier *INS Virat*. He also served as Fleet Operations Officer of the Western Fleet.

India, Pakistan to hold parallel meets on Afghanistan

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

New Delhi and Islamabad will hold two parallel tracks on Afghanistan this week — the two meetings sharpening the divide between India and Pakistan and their view of each other's role in the region.

On Wednesday, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval will meet his counterparts from Russia, Iran and five Central Asian states, including NSAs and State Security Chiefs from each of these countries for the Delhi Regional Security Dialogue.

On Thursday, Pakistan's special envoy on Afghanistan Mohammad Sadiq Khan will host a meeting of the "Extended Troika" made up of Russia, China, U.S. and Pakistan.

For the first time, the Troika-Plus, as it is called, will also meet with Taliban acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, who is visiting Islamabad to attend bilateral meetings.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The meetings make it obvious that the U.S. and other major countries in the region, which include China, Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, perceive their engagement with India and Pakistan on Afghanistan separately, but equally vital.

Pakistan is seen as a necessary interlocutor with the Taliban leadership, and an important transit point of trade and connectivity from Afghanistan.

India is seen as a powerful force in the region which must be engaged with, and kept onside for the difficult conversations on terrorism, drugs and migration, as well as a traditional bilateral partner to all the countries minus Pakistan.

This explains why Russia has sent its Security Chief Gen Patrushev to Delhi while special envoy Zamir Kabulov has confirmed he will travel to Islamabad this week, Iran held a Foreign Ministers meeting including Pakistan, but not India, just a fortnight before attending the NSA meet in Delhi, most of the Central Asian security chiefs visiting Delhi have engaged Kabul and Islamabad in the past few months, and U.S. Special envoy Thomas West is on an extended trip to the region, where he will visit Islamabad, Delhi and Moscow.

The NSA meeting in Delhi is a pitch for India's continuing role in regional security, even if its bilateral relations with Afghanistan are suspended for the moment.

The NSA meet seeks to share common concerns on terrorism and extremist ideology, drugs and refugees emanating from Afghanistan, and officials said that none of the countries involved are close to "legitimising" the Taliban.

TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
No.417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600008, Ph: 28191890/28190259 Fax: 044 28190636

Sl No	Online Tender / Rate Contract (RC) No/ Item with qty/ Document Cost	Sale Period	Pre bid	Last date Submission	Opening
1	Online Tender No.E759/FUR/ECRP/NHM/TNMSC/ENGG/2021, Dt: 06.11.2021 - ICU Cot (2096) - Modular Crash Cart (524)-Rs. 5,725/-	10.11.2021 to 24.11.2021	17.11.2021 11.00 AM	25.11.2021 11.00 AM	25.11.2021 12.00 PM
2	Online Tender No. E760/ECG/ECRP/NHM/TNMSC/ENGG/2021, Dt: 06.11.2021 - ECG machine (728)-Rs. 5,725/-	10.11.2021 to 24.11.2021	17.11.2021 12.00 Noon	25.11.2021 03.00 PM	25.11.2021 04.00 PM
3	Online Tender No.E761/DVT/ECRP/NHM/TNMSC/ENGG/2021, Dt: 06.11.2021 - DVT prophylaxis mechanical pump (412)-Rs. 5,725/-	11.11.2021 to 25.11.2021	18.11.2021 11.00 AM	26.11.2021 11.00 AM	26.11.2021 12.00 PM
4	Online Tender No.762/PW/ECRP/NHM/TNMSC/ENGG/2021, Dt: 06.11.2021 - Whole body warmer with blanket (524), Blood & Fluid Warmer (308)-Rs. 5,725/-	11.11.2021 to 25.11.2021	18.11.2021 12.00 Noon	26.11.2021 03.00 PM	26.11.2021 04.00 PM
5	Tender No.763/C&E/ECRP/NHM/TNMSC/ENGG/2021, Dt: 06.11.2021 - Civil, Electrical and MGPS work in the ICU unit-Rs. 5,725/-	12.11.2021 to 29.11.2021	19.11.2021 11.00 AM	30.11.2021 11.00 AM	30.11.2021 12.00 PM
6	Tender No.764/FAB/ECRP/NHM/TNMSC/ENGG/2021, Dt: 06.11.2021 - Fabrication of Vehicle as Mobile Medical Unit (387)-Rs. 5,725/-	12.11.2021 to 29.11.2021	19.11.2021 12.00 Noon	30.11.2021 03.00 PM	30.11.2021 04.00 PM

For details visit www.tenders.tn.gov.in and TNMSC website www.tnmscn.gov.in DIPR/3252/Tender/2021

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
CHENNAI SMART CITY LIMITED (CSCL)
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
INVITATION FOR TENDER

Intelligent Transport Systems funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Date : 10th November 2021
IFB No : C.S.C.L.No.145/2017-18
Employer : Chennai Smart City Limited (CSCL)
Country : India
JICA Loan No : ID-P270
Project Name : Project for Installation of Chennai Metropolitan Area Intelligent Transport Systems
Contract Name : Procurement of Design, Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Operations and Maintenance of Intelligent Transportation Systems in Chennai Metropolitan Area

1. The Government of India (GOI) has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of "Project for Installation of Chennai Metropolitan Area Intelligent Transport Systems" (herein referred to as "the Project"). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract Design, Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Operations and Maintenance of Intelligent Transport System in Chennai Metropolitan Area.

2. Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.

3. The Chennai Smart City Limited (the Executing Agency called Employer on behalf of GOI) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Design, Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Operations and Maintenance of Intelligent Transport System in Chennai Metropolitan Area("the Works"). International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with JICA's "Single-Stage Two-Envelope" Bidding Procedure.(As per standard bidding document into Japanese ODA loan (Design build) July 2015 by JICA)

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of:
Managing Director
O/o Chennai Smart City Limited (CSCL), 5th Floor - D wing, Amma Maaligai, Ripon Buildings, Chennai - 600003, Tamil Nadu
Telephone: +91-044-25303824/707 Email: tenders@cscl.co.in

5. Bidding document will be available at the above said office from 16th November to 16th December 2021

6. Pre-bid Meeting is scheduled on 8th December 2021 at 3:00 PM

7. A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased and collected by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of INR 75,000 /- or \$1000 USD (Including GST). The method of payment will be Account Payee Demand Draft/Banker Cheque in favour of Chennai Smart City Limited (CSCL), Payable at Chennai or through the online or offline through NEFT/RTGS to the Account of Chennai ITS Project, Account No. 50100333041254, IFSC Code : HDFC0001216, Bank Name: HDFC Bank, Bank Address : No. 30, Cenatoph road, Teynampet, Chennai - 600018. The document will be sent by Courier/Post or can be collected by the Authorized Representative of the Applicant.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 18th January 2022; 3:00 PM.

9. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 3:30 PM on 18th January 2022 at the office of :
Managing Director
O/o Chennai Smart City Limited (CSCL), 5th Floor - D wing, Amma Maaligai, Ripon Buildings, Chennai - 600003, Tamil Nadu
Telephone: +91-044-25303824/707, Email: tenders@cscl.co.in
Managing Director

DIPR/3277/Tender/2021
சென்னை டி.என்.சி. லிமிடெட்

Schneider Electric

INVITATION FOR THE SECOND ROUND OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR AVAILING WHITE LABELLING OF THE ELECTRICAL AND AUTOMATION PRODUCTS OF LARSEN & TOUBRO

Schneider Electric India Private Limited ("SEIPL") invites the second round of Expression of Interest ("EOI") from LV switchgear manufacturers in India for availing white labelling product manufacturing services from SEIPL, in compliance with the modifications provided in the order of the Competition Commission of India ("CCI"), dated 18th April 2019 ("CCI Order"), approving the acquisition of the electrical and automation ("E&A") business of Larsen & Toubro ("L&T") by SEIPL and MacRitchie Investments Pte. Ltd. The CCI Order is available at:

https://www.cci.gov.in/sites/default/files/Notice_order_document/Public1.pdf.

The white labelling product manufacturing services being offered by SEIPL is subject to the terms and conditions as set out in the CCI Order including the following:

- The white labelling product manufacturing service is being offered by SEIPL only for the existing product range, owned and manufactured at L&T plants, of the five products of L&T (Air Circuit Breakers ("ACB"), Moulded Case Circuit Breakers ("MCCB"), Overload Relays, Contactors and Switch Disconnector Fuse ("SDF"), collectively "Five Products").
- The white labelling services for the Five Products of L&T can be availed for the remaining period of the white labelling product manufacturing services offering ending as on 28 September 2026 for sale solely in the Indian market.
- The pricing and allocation of quantity for the white labelling contract will be governed by the CCI Order and monitored by the Monitoring Agency - Moore Singhi Advisors LLP (mukeshgilda@singhico.com) appointed by the CCI.
- At the end of the white labelling period as specified in the CCI Order, a single LV switchgear manufacturer shall have the option to enter into a non-transferable, non-sub licensable, non-exclusive technology license solely for manufacture and sale in India with SEIPL for all or any of the Five Products of L&T for which it has availed of white labelling, subject to the quantity / duration and other terms and conditions as set out in the CCI Order at a reasonable commercial royalty rate for a period of 5 years. Such technology license to the third party LV switchgear manufacturer shall be in accordance with the terms and conditions of the CCI Order.

Interested LV switchgear manufacturers are requested to respond to fully and finally to this second round of invitation for expression of interest by submitting their details at: <https://www.se.com/in/en/about-us/whitelabelling/whitelabelling-registration.jsp> by 10th Jan 2022 i.e., 2 months from date of publication of this EOI.

SEIPL will also conduct a pre-bid meeting on 8th December 2021, i.e., Wednesday at 10:00 -12:00 PM, to provide clarifications in relation to this EOI. Interested parties to contact us at whitelabel.support@se.com, for further details on the pre-bid meeting.

Specific product ranges available for white labelling will be shared with interested parties post registration at the link set out above.

For further details, please contact us at: whitelabel.support@se.com.

China exports warship to Pak., to be deployed in Indian Ocean

It will 'strengthen Pak. Navy's capabilities to respond to maritime challenges'

ANANTH KRISHNAN
HONG KONG

China on Monday delivered to Pakistan's Navy what its official media described as the "most advanced" Chinese warship ever exported, which is to be deployed by Pakistan in the Indian Ocean.

The delivery of the Type 054A frigate is the latest example of increasingly close military cooperation, which many Chinese and Pakistani analysts see as aimed at bolstering Pakistani capabilities in an effort to balance India in the region.

Pakistan's envoy to China, Moin Ul Haque, told the Communist Party-run newspaper *Global Times* on



Naval matters: Four Type 054A frigates are being constructed for the Pakistan Navy. • REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

Tuesday that the commissioning of the frigate "in the context of the overall security paradigm of the region" would "strengthen Pakistan Navy's capabilities to respond to maritime challenges to ensure seaward defence,

maintain peace, stability and balance of power in the Indian Ocean region".

The newspaper quoted the China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC), which designed and built the frigate, as saying the warship

was delivered to the Pakistan Navy in a commissioning ceremony in Shanghai.

PNS Tughril

It has been named *PNS Tughril* by the Pakistani Navy, and it is "the first hull of four Type 054 frigates being constructed for the Pakistan Navy", the Pakistan Navy told the newspaper,

"Being equipped with state-of-the-art combat management and an electronic warfare system along with modern self-defence capabilities, the Type 054A/P frigate can simultaneously execute a number of naval warfare missions in a highly intense multi-threat environment," it added.

Taiwan says China capable of air, sea blockade of island

'Beijing beefing up its ability to launch amphibious assaults'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TAIPEI

China is capable of blockading Taiwan's major ports and airports to cut off key transport links, the island's Defence Ministry warned on Tuesday, with Beijing-Taipei tensions at their highest in years. Taiwan lives under the constant threat of invasion by China, which sees the self-ruled democratic island as part of its territory to be brought into its fold, by force if necessary.

Beijing has ramped up pressure since Tsai Ing-wen became Taiwan's President in 2016, as she views the island as a sovereign nation and not part of "one China".

Beijing is strengthening its air, sea and land strike capabilities against the island, Taiwan's Defence Ministry said in a biennial report released Tuesday. Those capabilities include imposing a "blockade against our critical harbours, airports and outbound flight routes, to cut off our air and sea lines of communication", the report added.

The report also warned that China is capable of striking all of Taiwan with its missile arsenal, including ballistic and cruise variants, and is also beefing up its ability to launch amphibious assaults on the island.

Taiwan's Defence Minis-

ter warned last month that military tensions with China were at their highest in four decades, after record incursions by Chinese warplanes into the island's air defence identification zone.

The zone is not the same as Taiwan's territorial airspace but includes a far greater area that overlaps with part of China's own air defence identification zone.

China's "frequent manipulation of grey zone threats" such as the warplane incursions, as well as other methods of warfare, including cyberattacks, are aimed at "seizing Taiwan without a fight", the Defence Ministry report said.

Knife-wielding attacker shot dead in Oslo

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
OSLO

The Norwegian police said they shot and killed a knife-wielding man who threatened several people early on Tuesday in central Oslo before attacking a patrol car that arrived on the scene.

A policeman was injured as the officers tried to arrest the attacker in the capital's Bissett neighbourhood, the police told a press conference. No details about the identity of the attacker or his motive were disclosed. "We're not excluding any motives, but there is nothing at this stage that indicates this is a terror attack," police Inspector Egil Jorgen Brekke told reporters.

Hundreds of migrants trapped in Belarus-Poland stand-off

Poland says Belarus is using the people as a weapon

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WARSAW

Hundreds of desperate migrants were trapped in freezing weather on the border between Belarus and EU and NATO member Poland on Tuesday, with Warsaw accusing Russia and the government in Minsk of using them to threaten European security.

Western critics have for months said Belarus's strongman leader Alexander Lukashenko is luring migrants from West Asia to his country to send them across the border in retaliation for EU sanctions.

Belarus denies the claim and accuses Poland of violating human rights by refusing to allow the migrants in.



A man rests with a child at the Belarus-Poland border. • AP

stand perfectly well where it can lead," he told the state news agency Belta. "But we will not kneel."

Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, meanwhile, accused Russian leader Vladimir Putin of "masterminding" the unprecedented wave of migrants trying to illegally enter Poland from Belarus in a bid to destabilise the European Union.

The crisis came to a head on Monday when hundreds of migrants marched to the border in a bid to cross but were blocked by rows of Polish police, soldiers and border guards behind barbed wire.

Poland said Belarus was using the migrants as a weapon, insisting it would not open its border.

Bangladesh sentences former Chief Justice to 11 years in jail

Politically motivated case, says opposition groups, supporters

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA

Bangladesh's former Chief Justice was sentenced in absentia to 11 years in jail for corruption on Tuesday, in a case that opposition groups and supporters say is politically motivated.

Surendra Kumar Sinha, 70, headed the Supreme Court when it ruled in 2017 that Parliament could not sack judges, a move hailed by lawyers as safeguarding judicial independence.

Sinha left Bangladesh in late 2017 alleging he had been forced to step aside following the landmark ruling. He lives in North America where he has reportedly



Surendra Kumar Sinha

with him and... was determined to just kill his reputation," Asif Nazrul, a law professor at Dhaka University said.

Judge Shaikh Nazmul Alam of Special Judge's Court in Dhaka delivered Tuesday's verdict, ordering Sinha to serve seven years in jail for laundering money and four years for breach of trust, prosecutor Khurshid Alam Khan said.

"This verdict proved that nobody in the country is above law. Wrongdoings will bring anyone in the trial," he said. Sinha was the first Hindu chief justice in the officially secular Muslim-majority nation of 169 million.

Facebook whistleblower fears the metaverse

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BRUSSELS

Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen warned on Tuesday that the "metaverse", the all-encompassing virtual reality world promised by the social media giant, will be addictive and rob people of yet more personal information while giving the embattled company another monopoly online.

In an interview with *The Associated Press*, Ms. Haugen said her former employer rushed to trumpet the metaverse because of the intense pressure it is facing after she revealed deep-seated problems at the company and energised legislative and regulatory efforts around the world to crack down on big tech companies. "If you don't like the conversation, you try to change the conversation," the former product manager said.

Meta, the new name for

the parent company of Facebook, denied it was trying to divert from the troubles it faces by pushing the metaverse. "This is not true. We have been working on this for a long time internally," the company said in a statement. But the new focus on metaverse creates a whole new set of dangers, Ms. Haugen said.

"So beyond the fact that these immersive environments are extremely addictive and they encourage people to unplug from the reality we actually live," she said, "I'm also worried about it on the level of – the metaverse will require us to put many, many more sensors in our homes and our workplaces," forcing users to relinquish more of their data and their privacy. She said employees of companies that use the metaverse would have little option but to participate in the system or leave their jobs.

Impeachment trial of Chile President heads to Senate

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SANTIAGO

Chile's Lower House of Congress approved the impeachment trial of President Sebastian Pinera on Tuesday over corruption allegations that appeared in the Pandora Papers leaks.

Parliamentarians in the Chamber of Deputies gathered the 78 votes required to seek impeachment and advance proceedings to the Senate for the President's involvement in the controversial sale of a mining company.

Hamas sentences three to death in Gaza

The Islamist movement Hamas which rules the Gaza Strip said Tuesday it had sentenced three people to death, two of them for collaborating with its enemy Israel. The Hamas military court said recent rulings "included three death sentences, two of them against collaborators with the occupation, and the third against a drug dealer". AFP

INDIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMY
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002
Website: www.insaindia.res.in

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
INSA MEDAL FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS - 2022

Since 1974, the Academy has instituted INSA Medal for Young Scientists with the aim of recognizing young scientists of extraordinary promise and creativity who have made notable research contributions in Science and Technology. The research carried out in India independently by the nominees will be taken into consideration for the award.

Eligibility: Those born on or after January 1, 1982
Last Date: December 15, 2021

For Nomination form and other details, please visit www.insaindia.res.in.

IT DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ITDA)
Information & Science Technology Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh
IT Bhawan, Plot No. IT-07, IT Park, Sahasrabudh Road, Dehradun
e-Tender: dtdtd-e@nic.in

Tender Notice No. 147/ITDA/ITDA-02/2021 dated 09/11/2021
Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Managed Service Provider for Annual Maintenance Contract for Air Conditioner of ITDA

RFP (Request for Proposal) is being issued by ITDA, Department of IT, Uttar Pradesh, Dehradun for inviting proposal from firms for Selection of Managed Service Provider for Annual Maintenance Contract for Air Conditioners of ITDA.

The RFP document can be downloaded from www.itservices.gov.in from 09/11/2021 (1700 Hrs). The tender document fee of Rs. 2000/- (Rupees Two Thousand only) through demand draft (non-refundable) favouring 'Director, ITDA' payable at Dehradun should be submitted along with the Bid. The parties willing to participate in the bidding will have to apply through the Electronic Tendering Procedure (e-Tendering) as per the guidelines issued by Government of Uttar Pradesh available on the above mentioned web site under the link "Bidding Manual".

The amendments in RFP in future, if any, would be published in the website www.itservices.gov.in only. No other notification would be published separately.

Director ITDA reserves the right to cancel the tender at any point of time, without assigning any reason thereof.

DIRECTOR

MALABAR CANCER CENTRE
NABH Accredited (an autonomous centre under Government of Kerala)
Thalassery, Kannur Dist., Kerala - 670 103
Phone: +91 490 239244/257, 2355881
Fax: 91 490 2355880, Email: mccitc@gmail.com, Web: www.mccckerala.gov.in

MCC/370/2021-P2-GAD **GLOBAL e-TENDER NOTICE** 06/11/2021
E-Tenders (Tender ID: 2021_MCC_451481_1) are invited from established manufacturers/authorized suppliers through www.etenders.kerala.gov.in to supply 3 TESLA MRI SCANNER AND ACCESSORIES in Malabar Cancer Centre, Thalassery.
For details contact our Purchase Division. Sd/- Director

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.
KMMML
(An ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company)
SANKARAMANGALAM, CHAVARA-691583, KOLLAM, KERALA, INDIA.
Phone: +91-476-2653215 to 2653217, Fax: +91-0476-2680101, 2686721
E-mail: contact@kmmml.com, URL www.kmmml.com

Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal, <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmmml.com

No.	Tender ID	Items
1.	2021_KMML_450768_1	Global Tender for High Pressure Medical Oxygen Gas Cylinder filling Compressor System at KMMML, Sankaramangalam, Chavara, Kollam, Kerala, India

Chavara 09.11.2021 sd/- HO(U) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd.

No.	Tender ID	Items
2.	2021_KMML_449959_1	For the supply of SS Pipe
3.	2021_KMML_449860_1	For Fabrication and Supply of Treatment Reactor D213
4.	2021_KMML_449137_1	For the supply of CS Pipe
5.	2021_KMML_451169_1	For the Supply of Sleeve Bearing For Plummer Block-3 Nos

Chavara 09.11.2021 sd/- DGM (Mts) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd.

Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Rutile, Zircon & Silicamite

Here is an opportunity to hear the minds you follow.

Lend an ear to some of your favourite authors and thinkers as they prepare to enthrall you with the power of the spoken word.

DAY 2: Saturday, November 13

<p>10:45 AM Lessons of the Pandemic. <i>Dr. Srinath Reddy, Dr. Gagandeep Kang, and Prof. Arun Kumar in conversation with Kamini Mahadevan.</i></p>	<p>11:45 AM This is My Story. <i>Sudha Kongara in conversation with Chitra Mahesh.</i></p>
<p>12:45 PM Sense Smell Touch: Collaborating in Theatre Making. <i>Anuradha Kapur and Deepan Sivaraman in conversation.</i></p>	<p>1:35 PM The Song of Draupidi. <i>Ira Mukhoty in conversation with Pankaja Srinivasan.</i></p>
<p>4:00 PM In the Wild: Conversations about Conversations. <i>Neha Sinha and Sanjay Gubbi in conversation with Mahesh Rangarajan.</i></p>	<p>5:00 PM Reclaiming Gandhi. <i>Subodh Kerkar</i></p>
<p>6:15 PM Mind Matters: An Exploration of Lifespan Mental Health in COVID-19 Times. <i>Dr. Pratima Murthy, Dr. Shekhar Seshadri, and Dr. Soumitra Pathare in conversation with Dr. Ennapadam S. Krishnamoorthy.</i></p>	<p>7:30 PM Running Towards Mystery. <i>The Venerable Tenzin Priyadarshi in conversation with N. Ravi.</i></p>

To register for Lit for Life's first virtual event, visit <https://bit.ly/THLF21> or scan the QR code.

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Chance for Kiwis to give it back to England

How the spinners from both sides fare could be defining; Bairstow likely to open with Buttler

ICC T20 WC

AMOL KARHADKAR
ABU DHABI
The ICC men's T20 World Cup is in its climactic phase. The quintessential cricket fans cannot ask for a better face-off than the one between England and New Zealand in the first semifinal at the Zayed Cricket Stadium here on Wednesday.

Over the last five years, this has emerged as one of the fiercest rivalries in ICC Championships. Be it World T20 in 2016 or the ODI World Cup in 2019, Eoin Morgan's marauders and Kane Williamson's warriors have faced each other in the World's knockouts.

With England toppling New Zealand in both those ties, the latter would be gunning to avenge the defeats and keep alive its hunt for an elusive World title in white ball cricket despite being one of the most consistent sides in World tournaments over the last decade.

Consistent unit

Williamson would certainly be optimistic about overcoming England this time around, thanks to the clinical performance so far. Other than the loss to Pakistan in the Super 12 stage, New Zealand has hardly put a foot wrong. With its dynamic and skilful bow-

High-intensity duel

Sparks could fly when England, looking to enter its third final at the ICC T20 World Cup, takes on New Zealand which has not gone past the last-four stage

ENGLAND	3	England	2	NEW ZEALAND
2010 SEMIFINALS bt Sri Lanka by seven wickets		2016 SEMIFINALS bt New Zealand by seven wickets	2007 SEMIFINALS lost to Pakistan by six wickets	2016 SEMIFINALS lost to England by seven wickets
FINAL bt Australia by seven wickets		FINAL lost to West Indies by four wickets		
2016 SEMIFINALS bt Sri Lanka by seven wickets				
FINAL lost to West Indies by four wickets				

We know how consistent they have been over the last few World Cups, not only the recent ones. New Zealand have always been extremely competitive in and around semifinals and finals... so we are looking forward to the challenge

Eoin Morgan
England skipper

We've played each other a number of times. The evolution of the England team, particularly the white ball side, has been significant over a number of years. And they have a lot of experienced T20 players on their side

Kane Williamson
New Zealand captain

ling attack and a rejigged batting order – with Daryl Mitchell and Devon Conway playing their new roles to perfection – New Zealand has

been a consistent unit.

England would be hoping to repeat its feats in 2016 and 2019 despite the absence of two key stars who had shone

in those memorable encounters.

If it was Ben Stokes' assault that helped England clinch the World Cup title in 2019,

What went wrong for India?

AMOL KARHADKAR
ABU DHABI

For the first time since the World T20 in 2012, India failed to make the cut for the knockouts in an ICC Championship. While the management has been quick to cite the toss, dew and bubble fatigue as the reasons, a look at some factors that contributed to the early exit.

Selection: The original squad of 15 lacked balance as it had five spinners and three pacers. A last-ditch effort was made to rectify it by bringing Shardul Thakur in place of Axar Patel.

The team management made things worse by not playing R. Ashwin for the important games against Pakistan and New Zealand. What made the decision even more bizarre was that most teams preferred to play three spinners given the conditions in the UAE.

With neither Varun Chakaravathy nor Ravindra Jadeja able to pick up wickets in the middle overs, India's bowling lacked bite in the first two matches.

Though Ashwin was included for the final three contests and formed a potent spin combination with Ravindra Jadeja, it was too late.

Persisting with Hardik Pandya who, according to chief selector Chetan Sharma, was to bowl "in every match" wasn't a good play



Time to contemplate: Kohli was left to ponder over yet another failed campaign at an ICC tournament. • GETTY IMAGES

either.
Batting order: Given the tendency of India's top three – Rohit Sharma, K.L. Rahul and Virat Kohli – to get their eye in before going after the bowling, it was always going to be risky.

A left-hander was missed at the top of the order though Ishan Kishan got a chance to open against the Kiwis.
With the next T20 World Cup less than a year away, the new think-tank will have to ponder over the ideal batting order.

Bubble fatigue: Once India lost the first two games and was virtually out of the sem-

ifinal race, bubble fatigue, the toss and dew factor were cited as the reasons by the team during the limited interactions with the media.

It was conveniently forgotten that just before the tournament, the players were touting IPL's second half as an ideal preparation for the World Cup as it was being played at the same venues.

With Indian cricket's ecosystem – starting with the BCCI – putting the cash-rich IPL ahead of international commitments, an Indian player seeking rest from the IPL is highly unlikely.

QUICK SINGLES



Yorkshire apologises to Rafiq in racism issue

LEEDS
Cricketer Azeem Rafiq was praised for his bravery in reporting racism and bullying at Yorkshire by the new chairman of the club on Monday. "We're sorry for what you and your family have experienced and the way in which we've handled this. I thank Azeem for his bravery in speaking out. Let me be clear that racism or discrimination in any form is not banter," new Yorkshire chairman Kamlesh Patel said. AP

Asif Ali, Delany win ICC's October awards

DUBAI
Pakistan batter Asif Ali and Ireland all-rounder Laura Delany were on Tuesday named the ICC male and female players of the month for October. Asif Ali beat Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan and Namibia's David Wiese, while Delany prevailed over teammate Gaby Lewis and Zimbabwe's Mary-Anne Musonda. PTI

The bubble will burst: Shastri

"They have shown the drive to hang in there, no complaints"

AMOL KARHADKAR
ABU DHABI
Minutes after finishing his last assignment of a long streak as the India head coach, Ravi Shastri issued an indirect caution to the Indian cricket administrators with regard to managing India's hectic workload.



Well done! Shastri can leave a contented man. • FILE PHOTO

"When you're six months in a bubble... lot of players in this team play all three formats of the game. In the last 24 months, they have been home for 25 days. I don't care who you are, if your name is (Don) Bradman, if you are in a bubble as well, your average will come down because you are human," Shastri said in Dubai on Monday night after India finished third in its group of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

the bubble will burst, so you have got to be careful."

With the suspended Indian Premier League to be squeezed between the England tour and the World Cup, the Indian team hardly trained together for a week for the World Cup. Asked whether it is impractical to prioritise World tournaments ahead of IPL from an administrator's perspective, Shastri played safe.

Got to be careful
"This is not something where you just put petrol on the back side and expect the guy to move on in overdrive. It doesn't happen that way. That's why I say in life it's not what you accomplish, it's what you overcome; that's what this team has done. They have shown the drive to hang in there, no complaints. But sooner or later,

The former India captain, who reiterated India has emerged as "the best team ever" in Indian cricket history during his tenure, had no doubts that a player can now raise his hand up, seek rest and come back afresh to claim his spot in the team.

Freedom of expression
"The communication has been free. We have managed players, especially with the training methods and everything. One thing, we were never short on communication," he said. "Everyone was free to speak. No one was treated as a junior. There were no seniors and juniors on this side. Everyone had the freedom to express himself."

Rohit takes over the T20 reins

Kohli rested for series; IPL stars Rituraj, Venkatesh included



Rohit. • GETTY IMAGES



Rituraj. • SPORTSPIC/ IPL



Venkatesh. • SPORTSPIC/ IPL

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Rohit Sharma will lead India in the three-match T20I series against New Zealand which begins at Jaipur on November 17. K.L. Rahul will be his deputy.

Rituraj Gaikwad and Venkatesh Iyer, who performed exceptionally well in IPL 2021, were included in the squad. Yuzvendra Chahal, who was dropped for the T20 World Cup, returned to the side while R. Ashwin retained his spot.

The senior selection committee, headed by Chetan

Sharma, picked a 16-member squad for the series. Virat Kohli who relinquished his captaincy from the shortest format, has been rested.

The committee also picked an India-A squad, led by Priyank Panchal, that will travel to South Africa from November 23 to play in three four-day matches in Bloemfontein.

The squads and schedule:

For T20Is against NZ: Rohit Sharma (capt.), K.L. Rahul (Vice-capt.), Rituraj Gaikwad, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Venkatesh Iyer,

Yuzvendra Chahal, R. Ashwin, Axar Patel, Avesh Khan, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Deepak Chahar, Harshal Patel and Mohammed Siraj.

The dates: Nov. 17 (Jaipur); Nov. 19 (Ranchi); Nov. 21 (Kolkata).

India-A (for South Africa tour): Priyank Panchal (Capt.), Prithvi Shaw, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Devdutt Padikkal, Sarfaraz Khan, B. Aparajith, Upendra Yadav (wk), K. Gowtham, Rahul Chahal, Saurabh Kumar, Navdeep Saini, Umran Malik, Ishan Porel and Arzan Nagwaswalla.

The dates (four-day games): Nov. 23-26; Nov. 29-Dec. 2; Dec. 6-9 (all at Bloemfontein).

Sanjay Bangar named RCB head coach



Bangar. • FILE PHOTO

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

Former India all-rounder Sanjay Bangar has been named the head coach of Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) for the upcoming season, RCB announced on Tuesday.

Bangar will take over from Mike Hesson, who had donned the role for the second leg of IPL 2021. Hesson will remain with the team in his existing role as Director of Cricket Operations.

Bangar had joined RCB as batting consultant for IPL 2021. He has served as the batting coach for the Indian team, and has coaching experience in the IPL as well.

Sarnobat takes silver

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Rahi Sarnobat shot the silver in women's 25-metre sports pistol in the President's Cup shooting championship in Wrocław, Poland.

Doreen Vennekamp of Germany shot brilliantly in the first few rounds of the final to take the lead and sustained it to push Sarnobat to the silver 33 points to 31.

Manu Bhaker also made the final, but placed sixth. Bhaker made the mixed rapid fire pistol gold medal match partnering Ozgur Varlik of Turkey. The duo beat Xiao Jianxiuan of China and Peeter Olesk of Estonia 9-7 in the final.

Chinki Yadav and Marko Carrillo of Peru placed eighth in the second stage of qualification.

Anjum Moudgil shot 584 in the second stage and failed to qualify for the final by one point in the women's rifle 3-position event. She had shot 587 in the first stage in the 10-shooter field.

In the mixed team competition of the 3-position event, Moudgil and Petar



Rahi Sarnobat. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Gorsa of Croatia placed ninth in the first stage with a combined score of 878.

The results: Women's 25m sports pistol: 1. Doreen Vennekamp (Ger) 33 (588); 2. Rahi Sarnobat 31 (583); 3. Mathilde Lamotte (Fra) 27 (582); 6. Manu Bhaker 17 (583); 9. Chinki Yadav 578.

Mixed rapid fire pistol: 1. Ozgur Varlik (Tur) & Manu Bhaker 9 (366) 557; 2. Xiao Jianxiuan (Chn) & Peeter Olesk (Est) 7 (370) 560; 3. Doreen Vennekamp (Ger) & Clement Bessagamp (Fra) 10 (364) 569; 4. Kim Minjung (Kor) & Olier Geis (Ger) 4 (356), 549; 8. Chinki Yadav & Marko Carrillo (Per) 337 (547).

Top honours



Proud moment: The President of India Ram Nath Kovind presented the Padma Shri to Muma Das (table tennis), K.Y. Venkatesh (para-games), P. Anitha (basketball), Leela Nambiar (on behalf of late athletics coach O.M. Nambiar), Sudha Singh (athletics), and Virender Singh (wrestling) in New Delhi on Monday. • TWITTER



Varun and Ganapathy clinch gold

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

The Indian pair of Varun Thakkar and K.C. Ganapathy won the gold medal in the Asian 49er sailing championships at Al Musannah Sports City, Oman, on Tuesday. Though the two finished 10th overall, they were the only Asians in the top 10. This is Varun and Ganapathy's third medal at the Asians after the first place in 2018 and runner-up spot in 2019.

Varun and Ganapathy thanked their personal coach Bunny Warren for the triumph. "The competition was one of the toughest we've faced so far. We pulled as a unit along with coach Warren. We've established a good rapport [with the coach]," said Varun.

Ganapathy said the Asians were good preparation for the World Championships at the same venue from Nov. 16 to 21. "We have a long way to go, but we are slowly getting there," said Ganapathy.

Delhi loses, out of knockouts

Hyderabad defeats Uttar Pradesh, qualifies directly for the quarterfinals

MUSHTAQ ALI

SPORTS BUREAU

Delhi was knocked out of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy after suffering a 13-run defeat to Saurashtra in Rohtak on Tuesday.

Delhi needed a win to claim the second spot in Group E for a spot in the preliminary quarterfinals, but its batters failed to accelerate and fell short, chasing a victory target of 167. The team has lost to Hyderabad on Monday.

The team was in the hunt even with 3.4 overs left when Lalit Yadav (28, 12b, 3x4, 2x6) was dismissed by Jaydev Unadkat and Delhi was restricted to 153/5.

Earlier, openers Dhruv Shorey (33, 34b, 2x4) and Anuj Rawat (31, 28b, 5x4, 1x6) gave a solid start, but it went in vain.

Late thrust

Saurashtra's innings was shepherded largely by middle-order batter Sheldon Jackson (79 n.o., 47b, 11x4, 2x6). Chirag Jani added 42 (29b, 5x4, 1x6) to provide a late thrust.

In Sultanpur, Hyderabad



Guiding force: Sheldon Jackson's unbeaten 79 took Saurashtra to a winning score.
*FILE PHOTO

defeated Uttar Pradesh for its fifth win in as many games. Tanmay Agarwal scored his second half-century in two days (62, 46b, 7x4, 1x6) and Buddha Rahul scored an unbeaten 38 as Hyderabad posted 147/7 in its 20 overs.

UP, in reply, was bundled

out for 118 in 19.3 overs, left-arm medium pacer Chama Milind claiming a career-best 5/8 in 3.2 overs.

Hyderabad made it directly for the quarterfinals, while Saurashtra will feature in the preliminary quarterfinals.

Chandigarh registered its first win in the competition

in an inconsequential match in Sultanpur.

In a nip-and-tuck affair, Chandigarh chased down a target of 162 with three balls to spare. Manan Vohra (74, 60b, 3x4, 4x6) and Sarul Kanwar (38, 22b, 4x4, 2x6) were the chief contributors for the side.

TUESDAY'S SCORES AND FINAL STANDINGS

Elite A (Lucknow): Odisha 132/7 in 20 overs (Subhranshu Senapati 39, Suboth Bhati 4/27) lost to Pondicherry 136/4 in 19 overs (Ramchandran Ragupathy 39, Paras Dogra 54 n.o.).

Punjab 145/6 in 20 overs (Shubman Gill 34, Gurkeerat Mann 43 n.o.) lost to Tamil Nadu 148/3 in 17.1 overs (N. Jagadeesan 67, Vijay Shankar 59 n.o.).

Maharashtra 177/3 in 20 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 44, Yash Nahar 103 n.o.) bt Goa 104 in 18.1 overs (Shubham Ranjane 35, Satyajit Bachhav 3/27).

Final standings: Tamil Nadu 5-4-1-16 (+0.564), Maharashtra 5-4-1-16 (+2.277), Punjab 5-3-2-12 (+1.619), Goa 5-2-3-8 (-1.368), Odisha 5-1-4-4 (-0.957), Pondicherry 5-1-4-4 (-2.073). (Read as Played, Won, Lost, Points and NRR). TN topped the group as it had defeated Maharashtra.

Elite B (Guwahati): Mumbai 193/2 in 20 overs (Prithvi Shaw 83, Ajinkya Rahane 71) bt Baroda 111/9 in 20 overs (Tanush Kotian 4/16).

Karnataka 134/8 in 20 overs (Karun Nair 44, Manish Pandey 32, Mukesh Kumar 3/33) lost to Bengal 138/3 in 18 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 51 n.o., Kaif Ahmed 34 n.o.).

Chhattisgarh 176/3 in 20 overs (Shashank Chandrasekar 67, Sanjeet Desai 62 n.o., Amandeep Khare 35 n.o.) bt Services 141 in 19.5 overs (Rahul Singh

64, Anshul Gupta 34, Shubham Agarwal 5/13).

Final standings: Bengal 5-4-1-16 (+0.995), Karnataka 5-4-1-16 (+0.379), Mumbai 5-3-2-12 (+0.990), Chhattisgarh 5-2-3-8 (-0.146), Baroda 5-1-4-4 (-0.750), Services 5-1-4-4 (-1.513). Bengal topped the group as it had defeated Karnataka.

Elite C (Vadodara): Himachal 148/7 in 20 overs (Prashant Chopra 35, Raghav Dhawan 57, C.V. Stephen 4/11) bt Andhra 118 in 20 overs (Ashwin Hebbar 43, Ricky Bhui 41, Rishi Dhawan 3/16, Pankaj Jaswal 5/18).

Jammu & Kashmir 156/6 in 20 overs (Qamran Iqbal 37, Jatin Wadhwan 45) lost to Jharkhand 157/5 in 19.2 overs (Ishank Jaggi 30, Virat Singh 40).

Rajasthan 155/6 in 20 overs (Mahipal Lomror 36, Deepak Hooda 75) bt Haryana 125 in 19.1 overs (Chaitanya Bishnoi 41, Kamlesh Nagarkoti 3/25, Mohit Jain 4/14).

Final standings: Rajasthan 5-5-0-20 (+1.242), Himachal 5-3-2-12 (-0.260), Jharkhand 5-2-3-8 (-0.137), Andhra 5-2-3-8 (-0.156), Haryana 5-2-3-8 (-0.315), J & K 5-1-4-4 (-0.360).

Elite D (New Delhi): Bihar 118/6 in 20 overs (Mangal Mahrouf 64 n.o., Tejas Patel 3/27) lost to Gujarat 121/5 in 19.1 overs (Urvil Patel 33, Het Patel 45 n.o.).

Railways 165/6 in 20 overs (Mrunal Devdhar 51,

Mukhtar Hussain 3/26) bt Assam 117/6 in 20 overs (Denish Das 35).

Madhya Pradesh 171/5 in 20 overs (Kuldeep Gehi 31, Rajat Patidar 77, Parth Sahani 32) lost to Kerala 172/2 in 18 overs (Sachin Baby 51 n.o., Sanju Samson 56 n.o.).

Final standings: Gujarat 5-4-1-16 (+1.109), Kerala 5-3-2-12 (+0.363), MP 5-3-2-12 (+1.147), Assam 5-2-3-8 (-0.533), Railways 5-2-3-8 (-0.654), Bihar 5-1-4-4 (-1.370). Kerala finished runner-up as it had defeated MP.

Elite E (Haryana): Uttarakhanda 161/5 in 20 overs (Sanyam Arora 68 n.o., Kunal Chandela 30) lost to Chandigarh 164/4 in 19.3 overs (Manan Vohra 74, Sarul Kanwar 38, Agrim Tiwari 3/26).

Saurashtra 166/6 in 20 overs (Sheldon Jackson 79 n.o., Chirag Jani 42) bt Delhi 153/5 in 20 overs (Dhruv Shorey 33, Anuj Rawat 31).

Hyderabad 147/7 in 20 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 62, Rahul Buddhi 38 n.o.) bt Uttar Pradesh 118 in 19.2 overs (Akshdeep Nath 36, Chama Milind 5/8).

Final standings: Hyderabad 5-5-0-20 (+1.114), Saurashtra 5-4-1-16 (+0.511), Delhi 5-3-2-12 (+0.982), UP 5-2-3-8 (-0.399), Chandigarh 5-1-4-4 (-0.973), Uttarakhanda 5-0-5-0 (-1.244).

Plate (Vijaywada): Nagaland 63 in 18.4 overs (Ajoy Sarkar 3/10) lost to Tripura 67/1 in 7.3 overs (Samrat Singha 205/5 in 20 overs (Atharva Taid 35, Akshay Wadkar 40, Jitesh Sharma 54 n.o.) bt Sikkim 75/8 in 20 overs (Liyam Khan 30, Akshay Karnewar 4/5).

Manipur 100/6 in 20 overs (L.M. Keishangbam 31) lost to Mizoram 105/2 in 15 overs (Uday Kaul 31, Taruwar Kohli 38 n.o.).

Meghalaya 194/3 in 20 overs (Chirag Khurana 78, Kishan Lyngdoh 82) bt Arunachal Pradesh 102/6 in 20 overs.

Final standings: Vidarbha 5-5-0-20 (+4.967), Tripura 5-4-1-16 (+2.151), Meghalaya 5-4-1-16 (+1.131), Nagaland 5-3-2-12 (+0.396), Sikkim 5-2-3-8 (-1.427), Mizoram 5-1-4-4 (-0.959), Manipur 5-1-4-4 (-2.708), Arunachal 5-0-5-0 (-3.322).

Final phase (all matches at New Delhi): Pre-quarterfinal line-up (Nov. 16): Maharashtra (Elite A runner-up) vs Vidarbha (Plate group topper); Himachal (Elite C runner-up) vs Kerala (Elite D runner-up); Karnataka (Elite B runner-up) vs Saurashtra (Elite E runner-up).

Quarterfinalists: Tamil Nadu (Elite A topper), Bengal (Elite B), Rajasthan (Elite C), Gujarat (Elite D), Hyderabad (Elite E).

The quarterfinals will be played on Nov. 18, the semi-finals on Nov. 20 and the final on Nov. 22.

Ankita-Rosalie duo loses

INDIANS ABROAD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Irina Khormacheva and Lidziya Marozava beat Ankita Raina and Rosalie van der Hoek of the Netherlands 7-6(3), 7-6(2) in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the €189,708 WTA

tennis tournament in Linz.

Other results:

\$52,080 Challenger, Knoxville, US: Singles (first round): Prajnesh Gunneswaran bt Mikael Torpegaard (Den) 6-2, 7-6(2).

\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (first round): Chisa Hosonuma (Jpn) bt Jennifer Luikham 5-7, 6-4, 6-3.

Karan off to a flier

ITF TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
INDORE

National junior champion Karan Singh got off to a flying start as he beat the two-time National champion Niki Poonacha 7-5, 6-1 in the first round of the \$15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament here on Tuesday.

Karan broke Niki's serve in the second game to go 3-0 up, but it was a tussle in the first set as Niki broke back in the fifth game and saved a set point in the 10th to hold serve. However, he dropped the set with two double faults in the 12th game.

Niki served 11 double faults in the match and thus could not capitalise on the advantage of twice breaking the serve of Karan, who is fast emerging as the face of the National Tennis Centre (NTC) with his bright game.

In another match, top seed Sidharth Rawat squeezed his way past National championship finalist, Digvijay Pratap Singh 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

The results:
First round: Sidharth Rawat bt

Digvijay Pratap Singh 5-7, 6-4, 6-4; Dev Javia bt Kaza Vinayak Sharma 6-3, 6-3; Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam bt Raghav Jaisinghani 6-2, 6-2; Karan Singh bt Niki Poonacha 7-5, 6-1.

Qualifying (third and final round): Madhwin Kamath bt Rohan Mehra 6-2, 6-3; Faisal Qamar bt Lakshit Sood 6-2, 7-5; Ajay Malik bt Lohithaksha Bathrinath 6-4, 4-6, [12-10]; Vishnu Vardhan bt Fardeen Qamar 6-2, 6-4; Bharath Kumaran bt V.M. Ranjeet 6-3, 3-6, [12-10]; Ishaque Eqbal bt Lakshya Gupta 3-6, 6-4, [10-8]. **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Niki Poonacha & Vishnu Vardhan bt Ankit Chopra & Aaditya Tewari 6-4, 6-4; Ajay Malik & Karan Singh bt Rishi Reddy & Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 7-6(4), 6-3; Alexis Canter (Gbr) & Dev Javia bt Chandril Sood & Lakshit Sood 6-3, 3-6, [10-4].

Ishaque Eqbal & Faisal Qamar bt Dusty Boyer (US) & Karunday Singh 6-2, 4-6, [10-6]; Paras Dahiya & Parikshit Somani bt Rishab Agarwal & S.D. Prajwal Dev 6-3, 6-4.

Manish Sureshkumar & V.M. Ranjeet bt Jatin Dahiya & Dalwinder Singh 7-5, 6-0; Anirudh Chandrasekar & Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Kunal Anand & Shahbaaz Khan 6-4, 6-3.

Arundhati moves Delhi High Court

World youth champion seeks spot in Indian side

BOXING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

World youth champion boxer Arundhati Choudhary on Tuesday moved the Delhi High Court seeking a spot in the World women's boxing championships-bound Indian side.

The case is listed to be heard on Wednesday morning, Arundhati's lawyer Sandeep Lamba said.

"We have said, like other 11 National champions, Arundhati should also get selected for the World championships (in Istanbul in December)," said Lamba.

Arundhati, a three-time Khelo India champion who won the World youth title in 69kg in Kielce, Poland, earlier this year, bagged her maiden National title in 70kg at Hisar

following a revamp in weight divisions.

The BFI decided to select the National champions for the Istanbul event.

However, it made an exception to pick Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain directly in 70kg for the World championships.

Arundhati claimed that she got an assurance from the BFI top brass for a trial in her weight class after the National championships.

On November 4, the boxer from Kota, Rajasthan, wrote a letter to Boxing Federation of India (BFI) president Ajay Singh, requesting him to conduct a trial in 70kg. In her letter, Arundhati said she did not seek any favours and just wanted "fair play."

Arundhati moved the court as she "did not receive any response" from the BFI.



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Virtual launch by

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

in the presence of

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

On November 12, 2021 at 11.00 am



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RBI Says



Reserve Bank of India



RBI Says



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Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS



The cash current

29.17 : In ₹lakh crore, the total currency in circulation, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as of October 29, 2021. In value terms, the figure went up nearly 17.2% in 2020-21. The corresponding figure as of November 2016, when demonetisation was imposed, was ₹17.74 lakh crore. Government sources said, "Since cash is the most liquid form of asset, the increase in cash during the period of enormous uncertainty [due to the COVID-19 pandemic] is expected." PTI

Gap in doses

25.5 : Estimated % of the overall population which has been fully vaccinated. 54.3% of India's population has received at least one dose. While this figure is slightly higher than the world average of 51.09%, in terms of fully vaccinated people, India's figure of 25.5% is lower than the world average of 39.83%. A key reason for this is the gap between the two doses of Covishield, which comprises 88% of the administered vaccines in India. The spacing of 12-16 weeks is among the longest in the world.

Little respite

103.97 : In ₹, the retail price of petrol per litre in Delhi as on November 9. Although the Centre slashed excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹5 and ₹10 per litre, respectively, on the eve of Deepavali, and several States and Union Territories cut VAT on petroleum products too, prices at the pump continue to be high in the capital. Prior to the cuts, the retail selling price of petrol was ₹109.69. Despite all this, taxes continue to account for half of the price build-up of petrol.

The Daily Prophets

51.22 : The % of fan-written stories based on the *Harry Potter* book series in the popular fanfiction.net website out of a total of roughly 1.63 million contributions. There are roughly 0.84 million stories based on the *Harry Potter* series itself, indicating the popularity of the book series. The *Twilight* series (0.22 million, 13.6%), the *Percy Jackson* series (79,000, 4.83%), *The Lord of the Rings* (58,000, 3.55%) and *The Hunger Games* series (46,000, 2.81%) round off the top five book series.

Another Grandmaster

72 : Number of Indian Grandmasters (GMs). Just two days after 18-year-old Sankalp Gupta achieved his third GM norm, 20-year-old Mitrabha Guha from West Bengal emulated him by defeating GM Nikola Sedlak of Serbia in the ninth round at Novi Sad, Serbia. He is now the ninth GM from West Bengal (the first GM from the State was Dibyendu Barua who got the honour in 1991). As of July 29, 2021, the country with the most GMs was Russia with 240, followed by U.S. (96), Germany (95), Ukraine (87), and India.

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

A tentative truce with the Pakistan Taliban

Who are the Tehrik-e-Taliban? How does the regime change in Afghanistan alter the situation with Pakistan and the TTP?

THE GIST

- The truce will be observed between the Pakistan Government and the TTP for 30 days starting November 9
- The TTP wants to overthrow the Pakistani state and implement its hardline interpretation of the Sharia across the country
- The Afghan Taliban are facilitating talks between the two sides

STANLY JOHNY

The story so far: The Pakistani Government announced on Monday that it had entered into a nationwide ceasefire with the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), the outlawed terrorist group also known as the Pakistan Taliban. This was agreed upon after weeks-long talks held in Afghanistan between the Government of Prime Minister Imran Khan and the TTP.

What are the terms of the truce? The truce will be observed by both parties for 30 days starting November 9. A TTP spokesperson said in a statement that both sides agreed to form negotiation teams which will take the talks forward. While the Pakistani Government hasn't offered more details, a month ago, Prime Minister Khan, in an interview with Turkish broadcaster TRT World, had said that his Government was in talks with some TTP groups as part of a "reconciliation process". He said the Government would "forgive the TTP and that they will become normal citizens" if they agreed to lay down arms. According to a

According to a report on Radio Free Europe, the TTP demanded the release of 100 of its fighters from Pakistani prisons and the implementation of Sharia in Pakistan's northwestern tribal regions

report in Radio Free Europe, the TTP demanded the release of 100 of its fighters from Pakistani prisons and the implementation of Sharia in Pakistan's northwestern tribal regions. It's not clear whether all of their demands were met, but reports indicate that Pakistan will release some TTP fighters from prison as part of confidence-building measures.

Who are the TTP?

The Pakistan Taliban emerged as an umbrella group of militant outfits in the country's northwestern region bordering Afghanistan. As Pakistan, under pressure from the United States, carried out military operations in the tribal region from 2001-2014 to hunt for al-Qaeda and other militants who had crossed the border from Afghanistan after the 2001 NATO invasion, the local tribal groups launched an armed resistance. In 2007, this transformed into a



larger platform of militants under the leadership of Baitullah Mehsud. An ethnic Pashtun, Mehsud was associated with the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F), the Deobandi Islamic party of Maulana Fazlur Rahman. In the 1990s, after the Taliban took Kabul, Mehsud went to Afghanistan to fight the Northern Alliance, the united front of anti-Taliban militias that was backed by India, Russia and Iran. After the Taliban regime was toppled by the American invasion, Mehsud emerged as a major tribal leader in the Pakistani tribal belt, where he brought together five militia groups to form the TTP. He was killed in 2009 by a U.S. drone strike, but the organisation he founded continued to spread terror in Pakistan.

The TTP's goals in Pakistan are similar to that of the Taliban in Afghanistan. The TTP wants to overthrow the Pakistani state and implement its hardline interpretation of the Sharia across the country. They had nurtured close ties with al-Qaeda, and had carried out some of the deadliest terrorist attacks inside Pakistan, including the 2014

Peshawar school massacre in which 147 people were killed, most of them students. The Taliban's victory in Afghanistan appeared to have provided a fillip to the TTP, which has carried out a growing number of attacks on Pakistani security forces in recent months.

What's the role of the Afghan Taliban?

While there are organisational differences between the Afghan Taliban and the Pakistan Taliban, the two have ideological, tribal and seminary connections. Both have Pashtun roots and have links with the Deobandi seminary networks. The difference is that the Afghan Taliban's focus was entirely on fighting the foreign troops in Afghanistan and the (previous) Afghan Government. They got support from the Pakistani military intelligence. On the other side, the Pakistani establishment saw the TTP as an enemy as the outfit wanted to fight the Pakistani troops. But Pakistan appears to be addressing this problem by reaching out to the TTP through the Afghan Taliban. Pakistan had shown interest in talks with the

TTP in the past as well.

Will it hold?

It remains to be seen whether the truce will hold. And it's still unclear what compromise the Government has made to reach temporary peace. But the Imran Khan Government's decision to hold direct talks and reach a ceasefire with an organisation that is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Pakistanis, if not thousands, will raise questions on the Government's policy towards terrorist and extremist groups. The ceasefire comes days after the Government held talks and reached an agreement with another extremist group, Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan. Earlier this year, Mr. Khan's Government had expelled the French Ambassador to the country after the TLP carried out violent protests over "blasphemous" cartoons published in France.

Now, the ceasefire with the TTP, the deadliest of the two, will strengthen the criticism that Mr. Khan is pursuing "a policy of appeasement" with the hardliners.

TTP members patrolling Shawal in the Pakistani region of south Waziristan in 2012. *AP

EXPLAINER

Localising the labour force through reservations

What is the Andhra Pradesh Employment of Local Candidates in Industries/Factories Act? What has been its implications?

V. RAGHAVENDRA
VIKAS DHOOT

The story so far: On Saturday, the Haryana Government notified a law reserving 75% jobs for locals, which will come into effect from January 15, 2022. The law requires firms to reserve 75% of all jobs offering a salary of less than ₹30,000 a month for eligible candidates of State domicile. Following the Haryana move, the Jharkhand Assembly passed a Bill providing 75% reservation for locals in the private sector for salaries up to ₹40,000 a month. In 2019, the Andhra Pradesh Government had passed a similar law – the A.P. Employment of Local Candidates in Industries/Factories Act.

What did the Andhra law stipulate? The Andhra Pradesh law, passed by the Assembly in July 2019, and notified promptly next month, reserved 75% of jobs for locals in industries and factories, including any joint venture and project taken up under the public-private partnership (PPP) mode. Where suitable local candidates were not available, the industry or factory would be given three years to train local candidates with



"active collaboration of the Government". The Government also laid down that industry would have to apply for any exemptions from the Department of Labour, Employment and Training before sourcing employees from other States.

How has the industry coped so far? For now, the priority for the State, according to industry experts, is on getting new industries to absorb the local candidates in phases, as implementing the law for existing workforce would

entail terminating employees who may be from other States. The Government is not forcing employers to implement the Act for various reasons, which mainly include the prevailing gloomy industrial scenario, largely attributable to the pandemic's aftermath.

Has the law been challenged yet? While the Government has begun training programmes to develop skilled labour to cater to various sectors and implement the Act, an advocate has filed a writ petition challenging the law's

constitutional validity. The State, the advocate stated, has no power to prescribe the domicile or place of birth or place of residence as a requirement for public employment.

What do private industries feel?

The Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation president-elect P. Bhaskar Rao told *The Hindu* that while seeking to implement the Act, the importance of productivity levels of workers should not be overlooked. For instance, the workforce from Odisha and Bihar is highly productive compared to workers belonging to the Telugu-speaking States, he said. Mr. Rao said the Government has "not compelled us to implement the Act." Another issue which the industries are grappling with is the uncertainty whether local candidates will continue in their jobs and the possibility of them resisting the entry of job-seekers from other States if the situation necessitates outsourcing.

What are the takeaways for Haryana and Jharkhand?

For Haryana, already home to a thriving commercial, IT and automobile industry, a firm implementation of the law could

drive away existing investors as well as dry up fresh greenfield and brownfield investments.

"Instead of compelling firms to hire locals, the State can consider giving a 25% subsidy to firms as an incentive for hiring locals," Mr. Rao said. The industry chamber has also suggested to the State that if reservations have to be made, they should begin with a lower threshold of 20%-25% and give time for the State's youth to inculcate and hone their specialised skill sets.

While mineral-rich Jharkhand will have its own set of unique issues and challenges in implementing the job reservation plan, we have to wait for the final rules and implementation date to be notified before assessing its implications.

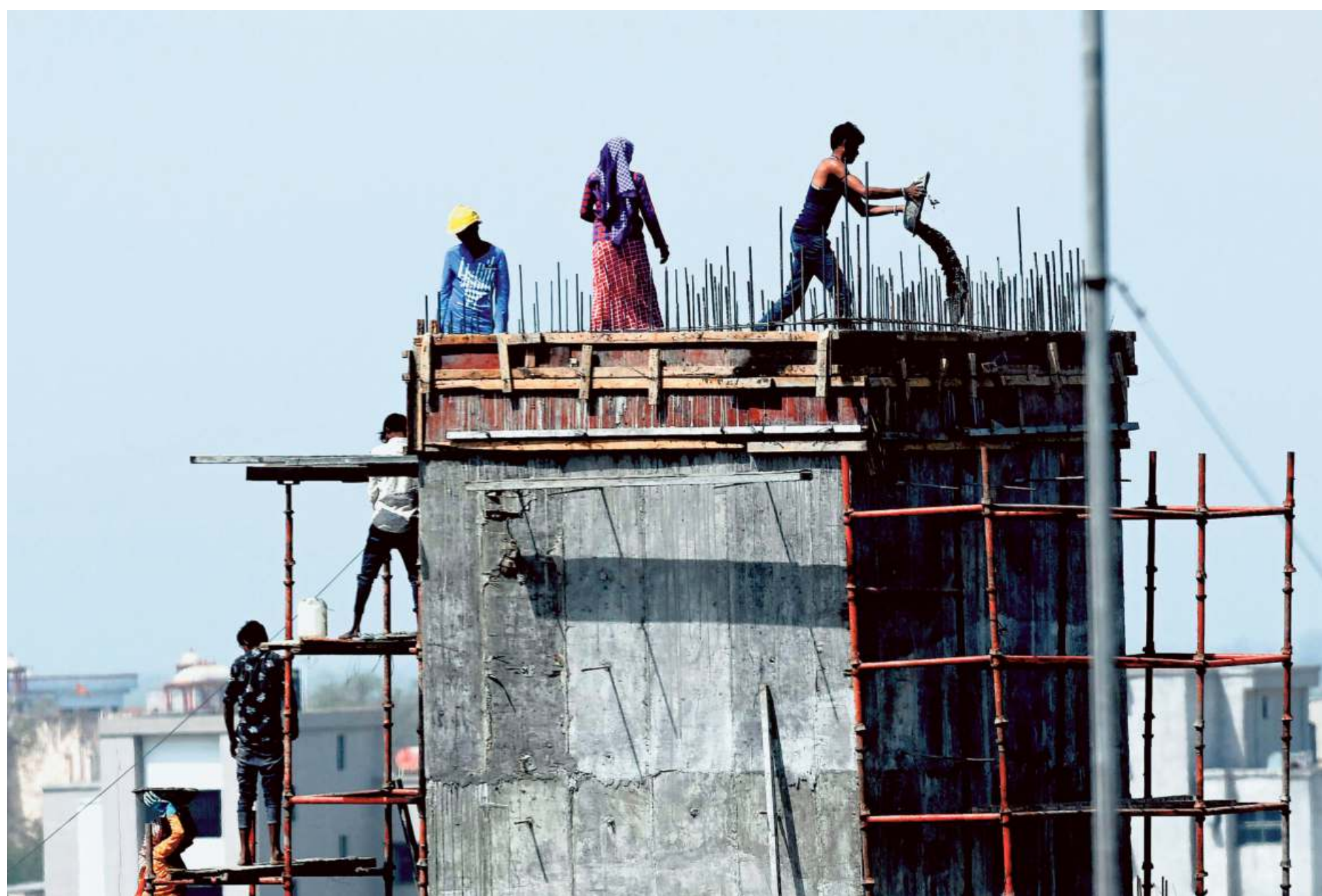
The broader trend of raising the sons of the soil issue for electoral gains in States will hurt the investment climate across the country, warned Amitava Ghosh, co-founder and principal partner at SSA Compliance Services LLP. "If more States follow suit, there will surely be an extreme level of talent crunch across industries in different States, and the free movement of India's manpower resources within the nation will be threatened," he said.

THE GIST

■ The Andhra Pradesh law, passed by the Assembly in July, 2019, and notified promptly next month, reserved 75% of jobs for locals in industries and factories

■ The industries are grappling with the uncertainty of whether local candidates will continue in their jobs and the possibility of them resisting the entry of job-seekers from other States

■ A firm implementation of the law could drive away existing investors as well as dry up fresh greenfield and brownfield investments



Building blocks: Gujarat had passed a rule in the 1990s making it mandatory for industries and employers to give 85% of jobs to local people. • AFP

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Lip service to labour rights

The exodus of migrant labour from Gujarat highlights the indifference of States to their well-being

THE GIST

Employers send contractors to distant unexplored places to gather labour at the lowest possible wage rate

Migrant workers earn low wages, work very long hours without any overtime benefits, and are almost without any leave or social protection

Local workers resent the presence of migrant workers who they feel take away their jobs in factories and other places on account of being cheap labour

INDIRA HIRWAY

The Gujarat Government passed a rule in the 1990s making it mandatory for industries and employers to give 85% of jobs to local people. It was never implemented in reality. Such restrictive moves hurt both the State and particularly migrants who go looking for jobs as this piece, published in 2018, by Indira Hirway points out.

Gujarat is one of the top States in India that receive migrant workers, largely temporary and seasonal, on a large scale. These workers are from Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and even from as far as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Assam and Karnataka. Employers send contractors to distant unexplored places to gather labour at the lowest possible wage rate. Surprisingly, the Gujarat Government has no data on/estimates of migrant workers coming to Gujarat. Informally, the figures are estimated to be between 40 lakh to one crore.

Segmenting the labour market and creating a separate labour market for migrant workers – who are easy to exploit – has been a common strategy of employers across India. The pathetic conditions migrant workers face have been widely documented. They earn low wages, work very long hours without any overtime benefits, and are almost without any leave or social protection. Lakhs of unskilled and migrant workers live on workites in makeshift huts (usually made of tin sheets) or on roads, slums and in illegal settlements. They are neither able to save much to improve their conditions back in their home States nor save enough to live comfortably in Gujarat. They go back home only once or twice to celebrate festivals. Semi-skilled workers with some education and skills (such as those in diamond cutting and polishing units, power looms and factories) get slightly higher wages and earn some leave. However, these workers are also exploited in multiple ways and are mostly unprotected. Factory owners, employers and traders are only too happy with such a situation as

they earn huge profits from wage labour exploitation.

Embers of resentment

Local workers resent the presence of migrant workers who they feel take away their jobs in factories and other places on account of being cheap labour. The recent attacks on migrant labour after an incident in Gujarat late last month, involving the sexual assault of a 14-month-old girl, allegedly by a migrant labourer from Bihar, appears to be a consequence of this resentment. Many migrant workers have now rushed to their home States out of fear despite several local people having been taken into custody on the charge of inciting violence against migrant workers. There have been reports of an estimated 60,000 to more than a lakh workers leaving the State. Those who have stayed back

Segmenting the labour market and creating a separate labour market for migrant workers – who are easy to exploit – has been a common strategy of employers across India

now live under constant fear. The exodus is cause for concern as it is bound to impact Gujarat's growth and create resentment among factory owners and other employers, especially at a time when the general election is drawing close.

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has blamed the Opposition for inciting locals to push out migrants while the latter have accused him of not stopping the migration. Some have even demanded his resignation. The anger on both sides is essentially more out of fear that losing cheap labour will be at the cost of Gujarat's prosperity than out of genuine concern for the welfare of migrant workers. The signals from the top leadership of the Chief Minister's party are "to bring the situation back to normal". This would also avert a crisis in the migrants' home States, which would have to cope with an army of the

unemployed. All this shows the utter indifference of States to the well being of migrant workers and their rights.

Only on paper

Under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act and other labour laws, migrant workers in Gujarat are legally entitled to all their basic labour rights. These include minimum wages, regular wage payment, regular working hours, overtime payment, and decent working and living conditions. Under the same Act, the Governments of the States from where migrant workforce originate are expected to issue licences to contractors who take workers away, register such workers and also monitor their working and living conditions in other States. But most State Governments remain indifferent to these laws. Gujarat has taken a few steps but these are far from adequate. The political impulse has been to maintain status quo – the continuation of the situation where migrant workers are exploited.

The Gujarat Government passed a rule in the 1990s making it mandatory for industries and employers in Gujarat to give 85% of jobs to local people. This rule was never really implemented in reality, but watered down by the State Government in its subsequent industrial policies, as new investors did not like any such restrictions. Now there is a move in the State to introduce a law for industries and investors in Gujarat which reserves 80% of labour jobs for State domiciles and at least 25% for local workers. But those behind the idea are perhaps fully aware of the futility of such a move. As long as there are huge surpluses from the labour of migrant workers, employers will have no incentive in hiring local workers. The objective of such a move is to perhaps contain the anger of local workers – at least till the 2019 election.

In the end, the real solution to this issue would be to enforce all relevant labour laws for migrant workers so that segmentation of the labour market becomes weak, and workers (local and migrant) get a fair and equal deal.



KEYWORD

The paradox of value

Why are diamonds much more expensive than water?

PRASHANTH PERUMAL

Also known as the diamond-water paradox, the paradox of value describes the vast difference seen in the prices of certain essential goods and non-essential goods. Many goods and services that are essential to human life have a much lower price in a market economy than other goods and services that are not so essential. For example, water that is essential for human existence sells at a price that is just a fraction of the price of diamond, which is a luxury item that is not essential for human existence.

The paradox of value has also been used to describe the vast difference in the wages of essential workers such as nurses and farmers and that of others such as CEOs of companies, who are considered by many to be non-essential workers. This paradox has been cited by many critics of the market economy, who argue that it is an unfair economic system that leads to inequality among different populations.

The paradox of value is often used in discussions on the theory of value to elaborate the concept of marginal utility and how the use value of an object can differ quite a lot from its exchange value. Many economists have tried to explain the paradox.

Some of them such as Adam Smith, who was a proponent of the labour theory of value, believed that the paradox of value can be explained by the difference in the amount of labour that it takes to produce a good or service.

Marginal revolution

The marginal revolution in economics in the latter half of the 19th century, which is attributed to the contributions made by Austrian economist Carl Menger, English economist William Stanley Jevons and French economist Leon Walras, completely changed the way economists explained the paradox of value.

These economists, who adhered to the theory of marginalism, argued that the price or the exchange value of goods and services is not determined by their simple use value. Instead, it is determined by their marginal use value (or utility) to the buyer. This is the most widely accepted resolution of the paradox of value among economists.

The most appealing demonstration of the theory of marginal utility was offered by Austrian economist Eugen von Bohm-Bawerk in his 1889 book *The Positive Theory of Capital*. He used the example of a farmer who had a total of five sacks of corn to use until next season. The farmer values the first two sacks of corn the most as they would serve as his food and help him stay alive until next season. He then plans to use the three other sacks of corn for other purposes in descending order of importance, namely to feed his poultry, to make alcohol and the final sack of corn to feed the parrots that amuse him.

Least urgent desires

Bohm-Bawerk explained that the price that the farmer would be ready to pay for any sack of grain would depend on how much he valued feeding his parrots, which happens to be the least urgent of his desires. It would not depend, he argued, on the value that the farmer places on his life, which is his most urgent desire.

The farmer, in other words, would be willing to pay a very high price for a sack of corn only when the supply of corn is severely limited by a famine or other crises. So, in the context of the prices of diamond and water that are vastly different, it is the limited supply of diamonds that makes them sell at a much higher market price than water, which is relatively more abundant in its availability.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Here's a quiz based on events that occurred and personalities who were born in the month of November

1 During the tenure of this freedom fighter as the Union Education Minister post-Independence, India's first IIT was set up in Kharagpur in 1951. Name the person who was born on November 11.

that day in 1949. Who was the Constitutional Advisor, an eminent jurist, who prepared the first rough draft of the Constitution and was acknowledged for this work by Dr. Ambedkar?

2 November 7 is remembered as the day when the Russian Revolution culminated with the Bolshevik party taking power. This resulted in the overthrow of a Government led by a liberal Russian who fled the country after the Revolution and spent most of the rest of his life as a scholar at Hoover Institution in Stanford. Name him.

4 A member of the Constituent Assembly, he went on to be part of the State Reorganisation Commission whose report in 1953 ultimately paved the way to the creation of five new States in November 1956. Name this person.

3 November 26 is observed as the 'Constitution Day' because the final draft of the Indian Constitution was released by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, on

5 November 26, 2008 is remembered for the horrific terror attacks in Mumbai. This police officer (assistant sub-inspector), who was instrumental in capturing the terrorist Ajmal Kasab but succumbed to death while doing so, was posthumously awarded the Ashok Chakra. Name him.



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Please send your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in Answers to the previous day's quiz on flags:

1. Mozambique, 2. Denmark whose flag is called the 'Dannebrog', 3. The Sun, 4. The original 13 States of the union, 5. The

Philippines, 6. Cyprus, 7. It is made of two stacked two triangles rather than being rectangle or square.

Early Birds
Anjali Roy | Aditya Pratap Singh | Vijay Kumar A. | Nirbhay Verma | Amiya Ghosh